

The Route of Stevenson by mountain bike From Puy-en-Velay to Saint-Jean-du-Gard

6 days, 5 nights, 5 days of biking, In double bedroom or 'gite'

Level: 3/5



What if your mountain bike could replace Modestine, Robert Louis Stevenson's famous donkey?

From Le-Puy-en-Velay to Saint-Jean-du-Gard, this mountain bike route follows in the footsteps of Robert-Louis Stevenson. It takes you over the volcanic hills of the Velay, the rugged highlands of the legendary Gévaudan, Mont Lozère and then the crests and valleys of the Cévenne des Camisards.

A 250km mountain biking adventure which alternates between valleys, volcanic plateaus and forests, crossing villages filled with history, before taking some height and passing over the tops of the Goulet, Mont Lozère and the Bougès Massif.

At the end of your stay, a pleasant climb up to the Col St Pierre followed by a descent through a beautiful pine forest will take you to Saint-Jean-du-Gard, just as Stevenson and Modestine did in 1878.

Strengths

- A historical and mythical route, following in the footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson.
- Diverse landscapes: volcanic plateaus, highlands, the Lozère, the Cévennes...

SCHEDULE

Day 1 : Arrival au Puy-en-Velay :

In the afternoon, you arrive in Puy-en-Velay, the first step for Robert Louis Stevenson in 1878, before he set off for Monastier-sur-Gaveille.

Before heading to your accommodation, let yourself be transported in this story-filled town with a stroll through the medieval streets in the old centre. Don't miss a visit to the cathedral with its magnificent Roman cloister, the Statue of the Black Virgin of Puy, and St Michel chapel, built atop an 80m rocky peak.

Night in Puy-en-Velay.

Day 2 : From Puy-en-Velay to Bouchet-Saint-Nicolas : 44 km - Elevation: + 1430 m

For your first stage, you will climb up to the Plateau du Pays Vellave, a volcanic platform at around 1000m altitude, from where you can enjoy wide views across the Puy-en-Velay basin. Next, you head south, taking on a beautiful descent towards the Rivers Loire and Coubon, before climbing back up to the plateau towards Le-Monastier-sur-Gazeille, the true starting point of Robert Louis Stevenson and his donkey Modestine's adventure, in September 1878.

Following the Gazeille valley, you will reach the volcanic plateau and a beautiful descent will take you to Goudet, where you can meet the Loire and go for a swim.

Then it's 4 km of small roads to avoid a nasty push. You will cross pastures and arrive at Bouchet Saint-Nicolas.

Night in Bouchet-Saint-Nicolas.

Day 3 : From Bouchet-Saint-Nicolas to Laveyrune : 47 km - Elevation: + 820 m

Level 3 : 47km Alt+820m

Level 4 : 59km Alt+1180m

For this second stage, you finish your crossing of Velay to arrive in Gévaudan. Pass by Pradelles, a medieval village which has been officially named as one of the most beautiful villages in France, and Langogne, the entry point into the territory of the Beast of Gévaudan, which terrorised inhabitants for 100 years. Once you have arrived in Luc, which is home to one of the most significant châteaux from the Middle-Ages, you have another climb before descending once more, into the forest, towards Laveyrune.

Night in Laveyrune in a 'gîte'.

If you choose the double room option, you will arrive at La Bastide Puylaurent, which you will reach not via the next day's stage but via a shortcut on a small road (+4 km). The next day's stage starts from Laveyrune and returns to La Bastide. So, either you want to do the whole stage and you will have to add the 4 km shortcut to the next day's stage, or you leave directly from La Bastide and your stage will then be 30 km +820 m -890 m.

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Day 4 : From Laveyrune to Bleymard, via Notre Dame des Neiges : 43 km - Elevation: + 1270 m

If you have chosen the double room option, your stage can start at La Bastide Puylaurens: 30km +820m -890m or at Laveyrune 47km + 1300m.

Today, starting from Laveyrune, you will pass over the summit of Espervélouze (1225m), the Notre-Dame-des-Neiges (where Stevenson spent three days), the Mourade (1310m), the Gardille Forest and Chasseradès, before a climb towards the hilltops of Goulet from where you will be lead on to Bleymard, at the foot of Mont Lozère.

This stage is physically demanding, with several steep but short climbs (Mourade and Goulet).

Night in Bleymard.

Day 5 : From Bleymard to Florac : 51 km - Elevation: + 1120 m

You've arrived in the mountains! Today you'll climb a little higher as you reach the Cévennes, ascending Mont Lozère and passing through forests, moors and grasslands. Then it's a 600-metre descent to Pont-de-Montvert, an iconic location in the Camisard movement of 1702, where you can take a dip.

You will cross the Tarn before climbing via the GTMC into the Bougès massif and the villages of Grizac and Bedouès to arrive in Florac!

Overnight stay in Florac Trois Rivières.

undefined : From Florac to Saint-Jean-du-Gard : 59 km - Elevation: + 1390 m

Follow the old railway through the Moment Valley towards St Julien d'Arpaon and Cassagnas. Via the Fontmort Forest and the Col de la Pierre Plantée, you cross the Cévennes National Park. Then, through the Gardon Valley and a few climbs up fast forest tracks to arrive at Saint-Etienne-Vallée-Française.

Further on, from Col Saint-Pierre, you reach Saint-Jean-du-Gard via a lovely descent through the Vallée Borgne forest.

This last stage is very beautiful and includes some challenging sections with fast, technical descents.

Saint-Jean-du-Gard marks the end of your mountain bike tour following in the footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson.

TRAVEL CONDITIONS

Formalities :

- A valid official ID
- We recommend travel insurance with repatriation included

Accommodation :

Double room formula:

- in double/ triple room in lodging of stage, bed and breakfast or hotel with bathroom and toilet in the room most of the time. On certain stages and according to availability, you may be offered sanitary facilities on the landing, either private or shared with other rooms. We will then inform you about this. Sheets and towels are provided.

- Gîtes d'étape: you will stay in basic accommodations, most often in dormitories, which will make you fully live the adventure of Robert-Louis Stevenson.

Accompanying :

2 formulas to choose from:

Mountain bike in freedom with carrying luggage by taxi: From 2 people.

Equipped with the guidance material we give you: maps with highlighted route, GPS tracks in GPX format and roadmap, you leave

alone to discover circuits designed by our team.

Mountain bike with certified instructor with luggage carrying taxi: From 6 people.

Accompanied by a professional mountain bike certificate, you ride without worrying about the route to follow.

Our instructor, specialist of the region, guides you and gives you, if you wish, the right advice to make you outstanding mountain bikers. Thanks to his knowledge of the route, he adapts to your group to manage schedules and effort throughout the day. Freed from group management, your only concern is to please you on your mountain bike.

Attendees :

Departure from 2 people for the freedom formula with carrying luggage every day by taxi.

Departure from 8 people for the formula with instructor.

DEPARTURE AND MEETING POINT :

Puy-en-Velay

How to get there:

By car: Access by the national 88 or 102. You can park your car for 7 days in one of the Puy-en-Velay car parks (about 25€ for 7 days).

By train: Puy-en-Velay train station.

By plane: Le Puy-Loude airport, then taxi to Le Puy-en-Velay.

Food :

This is not the time to go on a diet! Instead, it is an opportunity to taste local cuisine and specialities. The quality of your food is paramount and we take great care to ensure a good dietary balance, sufficient calorie intake and that each meal includes local specialities. You will eat in the hotel.

Picnics (for lunch) are not included.

Difficulty level :

The route is mostly running on more or less technical tracks with some passages in singles track.

Physical level: 3/5

You have a good physical condition and regularly practice mountain biking. From 41 to 59 km per day with maximum positive gradients of 1430m.

Technical level: 3/5

You master well the braking in descent and the trajectory of the bike. You will ride on paths or paths sometimes rolling, sometimes technical (steeper, with small obstacles).

Options :

Return transfer to Le Puy-en-Velay with mountain bike

Departures at 08:15 → arrival at 12:15 or at 13:30 → arrival at 17:15 : +95 € /person

The last section of the tour represents around 5 hours of mountain biking. It's important to leave early enough not to miss the shuttle. An extra night may be necessary if you wish to take the morning shuttle.

Accommodation

In double/triple room (instead of dormitory): +150 € /person

In single room (in addition to double/triple option): +195 € /person

Luggage

Additional luggage: +110 € /luggage

Additional nights in Le Puy-en-Velay (half-board)

In double/triple room: +76 € /person

In single room : +105 € /person

In dormitory: +50 € /person

Additional nights in Saint-Jean-du-Gard (half board)

In double room: +80 € /person

In single room: +120 € /person

In dormitory: +65 € /person

The gîte d'étape (dormitory accommodation) is located 1.5 km from the center of Saint-Jean-du-Gard, where the return shuttle leaves from.

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RATES

Freedom package - stopover gîte

Registration for 2 people	560€
Registration for 3 people	550€
Registration for 4 people	540€
Registration for 6 people	530€

Formula with qualified instructor and luggage carrying by taxi

Registration for 6 people	925€
Registration for 8 people	870€

The price does not include :

- Drinks,
- Picnics,
- Personal expenses,
- Personal ATV equipment (helmets, gloves),
- Mountain bikes,
- Transportation to the meeting point,
- Insurances
- Transport back to the starting point
- GPS (if requested) and GPS holder

The price includes :

- The reservation of accommodation,
- IGN maps with highlighted plot, map holder,
- The detailed guidebook,
- GPS electronic tracks (in .gpx format),
- Half board from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 6,
- The daily transport of luggage

GENERAL INFORMATION

How to subscribe ? :

No, no automatic forms!

At LaRébenne, we prefer to keep in touch with our travelers. We like to talk to you about our travels, and we want to maintain this relationship with you. Exchange, sharing and pleasure remain our ambition for LaRébenne travels.

Don't hesitate to contact us directly to talk about hiking or biking.

contact@larebenne.com

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Registration, deposit and validation

Once you've chosen your trip, it's quick and easy to register!

* Either go directly to your tour's page on our website and click on registration.

* Or we can work with you to create a tailor-made tour, and send you a personalized link to your registration form.

The registration is effective when we receive your registration form with your acceptance of the general terms and conditions of sale, accompanied by the deposit of 30% of the tour price. You will then receive an acknowledgement of receipt of your registration.

100% secure payment

You can pay by credit card (faster) or bank transfer.



Payment of balance

The balance must be paid one month before the departure date. You will find your invoice on your My LaRébenne space, as well as a payment link to the balance of your stay.

Invitation to depart

On receipt of payment of the balance, your travel diary will be available in your customer area on My LaRébenne, where you will find all the information you need for your trip, as well as your invoice.

Insurance :

In accordance with regulations, each participant in a LaRébenne trip must hold individual civil liability as well as individual multi-risk cover to protect themselves against incidents or accidents that may occur before or during the tour or bike trip.

Assistance mainly covers search and rescue, repatriation and medical expenses. It comes into play as soon as a medical report makes it possible to decide on repatriation. Repatriation, known as "premature return", can also be arranged for reasons other than the insured's own, such as the death of a family member (see cases in the insurance booklet). Beforehand, in regions far from medical facilities and difficult to access, you must agree to the organization of first aid using local resources (4X4, porters, horses, etc.).

This contract also covers loss, theft or delayed delivery of baggage, as well as interruption of stay.

The insurance protects against the financial risk of cancellation. It is very important to have this type of insurance in case of cancellation due to a health problem or for professional reasons.

We suggest you take out one of the three policies we have selected, bearing in mind that we only act as an intermediary between you and the insurer. Any additional insurance is invoiced per person and must be taken out on the day of booking:

- "Multirisque" contract (4.5%), minimum premium 15 euros:
Repatriation assistance + tour interruption + luggage + cancellation.

[See the complete contract](#)

- "Cancellation" contract (2.5%), minimum premium 10 euros:
Cancellation only.

[See the complete contract](#)

- "Repatriation assistance" contract (1.6%), minimum premium of 10 euros:
Repatriation assistance + tour interruption + luggage.

[See the complete contract](#)

As far as "civil liability abroad" is concerned, only French residents are covered.

Informations :

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