

AUVERGNE – CHAÎNE DES PUYS

From Puy de Dôme to Puy de Sancy

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Self-guided distance tour | 7/6 |

DESCRIPTION

The Chaîne des Puys in the Auvergne Volcanoes Nature Park consists of four large volcanic massifs that give the region its unique character. Nowhere else in France can you find such an exceptionally rich flora and fauna, gently nestled amidst the rugged rocky landscape. These highlands have always been characterised by the people who have farmed the lush land here for generations and whose local produce makes the culinary delights of this region a real treasure trove. A wide variety of cheeses and meat products from the typical highland cattle are waiting to be savoured. Magnificent landscapes, unspoilt nature with a lively pastoral lifestyle, the home of the famous Saint-Nectaire cheese and numerous picturesque crater lakes await you.

HIGHLIGHTS

In the Chaîne des Puys, you will discover volcanoes and imposing mountain landscapes, while the Temple of Mercury and the Château de Montlosier await you in Auvergne. Regional delicacies such as cheese and wine round off your hiking holiday.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL MOUNTAIN HIKING

The daily routes lead along good mountain and hiking trails. The varied high-altitude trails require a good basic level of fitness, surefootedness and a head for heights in some sections in order to complete the stages without any problems.

2027

ARRIVAL / PARKING / DEPARTURE

- Clermont-Ferrand airport or train station
- Parking: hotel parking spaces, costs approx. EUR 20 per week or public parking space near the hotel, as well as parking spaces at the train station in Clermont-Ferrand
- Return journey from Besse to Clermont-Ferrand, included in the price

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival in Clermont-Ferrand

Day 2: Clermont-Ferrand - Laschamps

approx. 5.5 hours | 16 km | 700 m 570 m

Short transfer to Orcines. Ascent to the Puy de Pariou with its perfect crater and on to the Puy de Dôme, the jewel and characteristic peak of the volcanic chain. The panorama is unique in good weather. Visit the ancient remains of the Temple of Mercury, the weather station or the exhibition on volcanism in Auvergne. Descend via the old mule track and the Ceyssat Pass to the village of Laschamps.

Day 3: Laschamps – Servières/Fontsalive

approx. 6.5 hours | 25 km | 650 m 410 m

Today you hike through the heart of the volcanic chain towards the castle of Montlosier, the centre of the Volcanoes National Park. You hike up to the twin volcanoes of La Vache and Lassolas. Continue via the Puy de l'Enfer to the lake of Servières, a crater lake in the middle of a stunning natural landscape and the ideal place for a long break. Overnight stay in the vicinity of the lake.

Day 4: Servières/Fontsalive – Le Mont Dore

approx. 5.5 hours | 22 km | 500 m 690 m

At the start of the stage, you climb the Puy de l'Ouire and hike over to the Puy de l'Aiguiller. This is the start of the pass that leads to Lake Guéry, a unique place with the glittering reflection of the lake, the peaks of Sancy on the horizon and the volcanic formations, the Tuilière and Sanadoire rocks. Cross the Guéry plateau to the Puy Gros, a magnificent viewpoint over the Sancy massif and the glacial valley of Mont-Dore.

Day 5: Le Mont Dore – Chareire

approx. 6 hours | 21 km | 940 m 810 m

Ascent to Capucin, and on to the Puy de Cliergue as far as the Tour Carrée. The high-level trail runs over the Pas de l'âne to the Puy de Sancy, the 1,886 metre-high summit of the Massif Central. Descend via the Col de Couhay into the Fontaine Salée valley, where, with a bit of luck, you can observe the local mouflon sheep at close quarters. The wide, grassy valley is framed by the south face of the Puy de Sancy and offers ideal living conditions for the wild sheep.

Day 6: Chareire – Besse

approx. 5 hours | 16 km | 370 m 450 m

To round off your hiking tour, you will circle the foot of the massif once again. You will pass the Barthe waterfall and the beautiful Pavin crater lake. Descend via the Puy de Pertuyzat to the village of Besse-en-Chandesse, which welcomes visitors with its historic cobbled streets and well-preserved medieval houses. Your hike ends in the beautiful village of Besse, where you can enjoy a final night in the heart of the Auvergne.

Day 7: Departure or extension

ARRIVAL DATES 2027

01.05. - 15.10.
Arrival daily
Season 2027: 01.05. - 15.10.

PRICES 2027

All prices given in Euros per person in double room.

Booking code	**FR-AUWCB-**	**07X**
Season 2027		1,249
Surcharge single room		299
Surcharge solo traveller		589

EXTRA NIGHTS

You can book an extra night for any day of your tour. All prices given in Euros per person in double room.

Besse	
Basic price season 2027	109
Surcharge single room	59
Clermont-Ferrand	
Basic price season 2027	65
Surcharge single room	45

SERVICES

Included

- Accommodation in pretty 2**- and 3***-hotels (French classifying), as well as cozy guesthouses and country hotels
- Breakfast
- 5 dinners (not in Clermont-Ferrand)
- Luggage transfer (1 piece of luggage per person, max. 20 kg)
- 1 transfer Besse - Clermont-Ferrand
- Travel documents package incl. GPS-data and route book, 1x per room
- Service hotline

Things to note

- Tourist tax, if due, is included in the price

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

For a stress-free start to your travel, arriving at the start point by early evening the day before is recommended. The individual return journey takes place on the last day of travel. For any costs incurred locally (children, local taxes, dogs etc.), as well as excluded transport and services, please refer to the itinerary or the section “Services/Things to note”. If a minimum number of participants is necessary for the trip to take place, this is defined under “Arrival dates”. If the minimum number of participants is not reached, we reserve the right to cancel the tour by the time specified under the heading “Arrival dates” before the planned travel date. We recommend organising your arrival and departure only after this deadline has passed. The distance travelled is approximate and may differ from the actual distance. The language in which the listed services are provided, as far as this is relevant for the provision of services, can be found under the heading “Services”. If special passport or visa requirements are needed for EU citizens, this is indicated under “Arrival/Parking/Departure”. This trip is not suitable for people with reduced mobility. Travel cancellation insurance, including travel interruption insurance is recommended. Information on insurance options to cover the cost of assistance during the journey, including transport in case of accident, illness or death can be found at https://www.eurobike.at/travel-insurance

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