



Pyrenees ROADTRIP

On the route of the four wonders of the Pyrenees

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After a delicious relaxing dip in largest spa baths in the Pyrenees, set off to discover these four world famous 'Grand Sites', just follow the classic 'Grand Cols' route.



from
349 € /person
Based on 2 persons

4 days/4 nights in chambre d'hotes and 4 and 3 star hotels, with breakfasts included, staying in Saint-Lary, Gavarnie, Cauterets, Lourdes • 1 'Grands Sites' pass to Pic du Midi (access to summit by cable car) + Cauterets-Pont d'Espagne (parking, gondola ride from Puntas and chairlift from Lac de Gaube) • 1 entry (2h) to 3 spa centres of the Hautes-Pyrenees: Balnéa, Luzéa, Les Bains du Rocher with indoor baths, outdoor lagoon, sauna, hammam, jacuzzi...

The strengths:

An itinerary designed for easy independent driving
Everything pre-booked
Less than one hour's driving per day (except day 2)
A varied programme with moments of relaxation



On the programme:

Day 1 : Departure point: Col de Peyresourde > Balnéa (spa centre) > Col de Val Louron-Azet - Night in Saint-Lary - 33 mn / 21 km

After passing through Luchon, you will arrive over the Col de Peyresourde mountain pass. Take the time to stop at the top to admire the view. Once going back down through the Louron valley, head towards the Génos-Loudenvielle lake. The Pyrénées here welcome you with a bath in the naturally warm and comforting spa waters, it is in the open air with a view towards a magnificent range of mountains. After this relaxing pause it is back on the road for one last mountain pass, the Col de Val Louron-Azet, which will take you into the valley of Saint Lary, a famous Pyrenean valley, for your luxurious overnight stop.

Day 2 : Col d'Aspin > Pic du Midi > Col du Tourmalet > Cirque de Gavarnie - Night in Gavarnie - 2h07 / 93 km
Our adventure continues and today holds many surprises. From Saint Lary follow the RD929 towards Arreau to reach the Pic du Midi by crossing the Col d'Aspin. After a thrilling cable-car ride you enjoy the greatest panorama in the Pyrenees from the top at nearly 3000 metres. You then cross the famous Coldu Tourmalet, scene of so many dramas of the Tour de France before spending the night in the sensational setting of Gavarnie. But do not be impatient, you will have plenty of time tomorrow to discover this World Heritage site. Wellbeing pause in the Luzéa baths.

Day 3 : Cirques de Gavarnie - Troumouse - Estaubé - Night in Cauterets - 1h18 / 50 km
Today is the day for the big show! With a ticket to meet a world famous celebrity - the Cirque de Gavarnie. It will be a day full of emotion. The cirque is one of the great natural wonders, its immensity is staggering, everybody can only stare in admiration and feel humbled by its enormity and great beauty. At the end of the day you will be in Cauterets ready for the best seats for tomorrow's show in the Garden of Eden of the Pyrenees- Pont d'Espagne.

Day 4 : Cauterets-Pont d'Espagne > Bains du Rocher (spa centre) > Lourdes (torchlight procession) - Night in Lourdes - 1h15 /45 km
Today will be gentle, peaceful and revitalising. After an exploration of the Garden of Eden of the Pyrenees that is Pont d'Espagne we head for Lourdes for an unusual experience. And if you can get up early you can start the day with a relaxing session in the soothing waters of the Bains de Rocher spa baths in Cauterets.

Day 5 : Departure.

Before you leave the Pyrenees we suggest you rest a while in Lourdes to see its astonishing funicular railway, the castle and its lovely lake.

Accomodation:

4 and 3 star hotels and chambre d'hotels

Day 1: a 4 star hotel in Saint-Lary

Situated at the heart of the Pyrenees National Park this hotel has an exceptional location, a green and peaceful setting. At just 50 metres from the cable-cars for the Saint Lary ski resort, the hotel has kept its Pyrenean roots and its mountain soul, it offers an ambience of charm and authenticity. The staff are always on hand to offer a high quality of service. The hotel has 65 very comfortable rooms including 5 family rooms, their decoration is both classical and contemporary with fine materials and warm colours. Each room has a clear view over the surrounding mountains or the spa gardens. The bar and the La Mangeoire restaurant are situated around the lounge with its mountain chalet look. The restaurant offers a refined cuisine with a large choice of regional and international dishes based on local seasonal produce. The 'La Cintra' bar is at the heart of the hotel and is a popular meeting place. The hotel is joined directly to the Sensoria by Nuxe spa baths, you can enjoy warm baths, body and facial treatments, Nuxe massages and many other beauty treatments. A lovely moment of relaxation for both body and mind in a warm cosy setting, and at the very heart of the Pyrenees.

Your hotel has 65 bedrooms (including 3 for persons with reduced mobility), a restaurant, bar with open fire, 4 meeting rooms, a terrace.

Day 2: a 3 star hotel in Gèdre-Gavarnie

Your 3 star Logis hotel is located in Gedre, the village from which the three prestigious 'Cirques' of Gavarnie, Troumouse and Estaubé are reached. From the terrace there is a splendid view over the Breche de Roland. You are at the entry point to the National Park and the World Heritage site of 'Pyrenees, Mont Perdu, land of Cirques and Canyons'. Your hosts, Odile and Philippe offer a very warm welcome in their family run hotel, the building dates from the 17th century. Their restaurant proposes a range of typically Pyrenean dishes such as Garbure, Porc Noir de Bigorre, AOC Bareges Gavarnie lamb, the surprising Gateau a la Broche. A festival of flavours to be enjoyed with a glass or two of Madiran or Pacherenc...

Your hotel has 25 bedrooms (with 3 offering disabled access), a restaurant, bar, lounge, a panoramic terrace. Your double bedroom has 160 cms double bed, bathroom with toilet, hair-dryer, telephone, LED TV.

Day 3: a 3 star hotel in Cauterets

Your 3 star Logis 'Charm and Character' hotel is located in the centre of Cauterets, a small Pyrenean spa resort. Your hosts, Bernadette and Marie Rose, will remind you a pair of English country ladies, they have created this family hotel in their own image, it is situated at the very heart of the spa town. Lace and embroidery, pink bedcovers, curios and trinkets, sachets of lavender on the wardrobe handles, all is done to create a romantic ambience. And not to forget the charming patio with its many flower filled balconies. Your hotel has 12 bedrooms, 6 suites, a restaurant, small bar and salon, a terrace, garden and conservatory. Your room 'standard' has double 140 cms bed, bathroom, toilet, television, telephone, Wi-Fi.

Day 4: a guest house in Lourdes

Constructed towards the end of the 19th century this villa is in the centre of Lourdes with a magnificent setting, and a clear view over the sanctuaries and the castle, with the Pyrenees as a magnificent back-drop. It is close to all the shops and cafes, you can reach the town quickly on foot. The guest house is particularly comfortable with home cinema TV, DVD, video games, a library and a piano.

Your guest house has 4 spacious bedrooms overlooking the town of Lourdes with a view over the sanctuaries and the castle. There are two terraces with garden furniture, private parking for 4 cars.

Your Aspin bedroom, on the first floor of the villa (no lift), spacious, has a south-facing balcony with a view over the sanctuaries and the Pyrenees. It has a 180 cms double bed. The bathroom has an Italian style shower and a bath, the stained glass window comes from an ancient chapel. Separate toilet. Air conditioning, wi-fi, tea and coffee making facilities.

Where?

BALNÉA - The largest spa centre in the French Pyrenees

Set on the edge of the Loudenvielle lake, in one of the most beautiful valleys of the Hautes Pyrenees, Balnea proposes spa experiences from all over the world in its healing warm waters.

THE PIC DU MIDI - The summit

Climb over a thousand metres in just 15 minutes, the cable-car takes the strain. Once at the top the panoramic terraces offer the best view in France, a fabulous 360 degree panorama covering over 300 kms. One can also spend the night or an evening at the top.

GAVARNIE - A World Heritage site

Five and a half kilometres in diameter, walls 1500 m high, dozens of waterfalls, impressive statistics for this wonder of nature. A natural colossus that must be seen, it adjoins the Spanish canyons.

CAUTERETS PONT D'ESPAGNE - Walking through paradise

Situated in the heart of the Pyrenees National Park, the Cauterets Pont d'Espagne area is a veritable Garden of Eden with fantastic walks for all levels. A cable-car takes you up to the sublime Lac de Gaube with its deep blue waters.

LOURDES - The torchlight procession

Each evening thousands of pilgrims and visitors gather to walk in procession from the Grotte des Apparitions to the Rosaire esplanade, all are bearing torches and all are singing. It is a moving sight, joyous and magical.

Budget:

From 349 € /person. Based on 2 persons

The price includes: 4 nights in chambre d'hotels and 4 and 3 star hotels, B&B - 1 entry (2 hrs) to Balnéa Spa - 1 'Grands Sites' pass to Pic du Midi + Cauterets-Pont d'Espagne - 1 entry (2 hrs) to Luzéa Spa - 1 entry (2 hrs) to Les Bains du Rocher Spa - Booking fee.

The price does not include: Cancellation insurance - Lunches - Local taxes.

Validity: All year

Between us:

You need a hire car

For all our itinerant voyages and Road Trips we can organise car rental.

From fine dining establishments to those offering typical local cuisine... We have selected some very good restaurants for your lunches and dinners. Something for every taste.

Day 1: Lunch at "La Table de Saoussas", Loudenvielle: dishes featuring local produce ; the restaurant of Balnea: balanced, healthy and natural cuisine.

Dinner at "La Grange" at Saint-Lary: flavoursome cuisine which reveres local products.

Day 2: Lunch at the Pic du Midi restaurant where original dishes featuring local produce are served at an altitude of almost 3,000 metres ; the Auberge "Chez Germaine" at Payolle: a typical mountain auberge.

Dinner at the Hotel-Restaurant "La Brèche de Roland" in Gedre: a family atmosphere and delicious cuisine.

Day 3: Lunch at the Hotellerie de Cirque in Gavarnie, opposite the giant waterfall in the very heart of the cirque itself ; Auberge de la Munia in Héas, a fabulous setting.

Dinner at "l'Abri du Benquès" in Cauterets: beneath the Lutour waterfall, a sophisticated setting with inventive gastronomic cuisine.

Day 4: Lunch at "L'Hôtellerie du Lac de Gaube": accessible by cable-car and chairlift, on the banks of the lake, facing the Vignemale massif ; "L'Hôtellerie du Pont d'Espagne", opposite the waterfalls of Pont d'Espagne.

For dinner there is a choice: "L'Alexandra" in Lourdes: tasty cuisine in a cosy setting ; the "Leffe" in Lourdes: a traditional brasserie ; the "Da Marco" pizzeria in Lourdes: an genuine institution in the rue de la Grotte.

Before leaving... Make the most of your stay in Lourdes by taking the century old Pic du Jer funicular railway, visit the ancient castle with its superb view over the town, or even a swim at Lac de Lourdes!

The Pic du Jer Funicular Railway: The Pic du Jer towers over Lourdes, it is recognisable by its enormous cross which is illuminated at night. A century old funicular railway takes you to the summit at 1000m of altitude in just a few minutes, a voyage full of history. Once at the top an easy trail takes you to a look-out point from where there is a 360 degree panorama, over Lourdes, Tarbes, Pau the Argeles-Gazost valley and the Pyrenean peaks.

The Lourdes castle and its Pyrenean museum: The castle is perched on a rocky outcrop overlooking the town, it is a classified historical monument. Within its wall is a museum of the Pyrenees. So do hesitate to making an assault on this impressive fortress, climb the 104 steps which lead to the top of the dungeon tower, at the top the view is superb. You can also discover the famous legend of Charlemagne who is celebrated on the crest of Lourdes.

On the beach in Lourdes:

Over at the lake the town of Lourdes becomes a seaside resort. A floating basin offers a lovely spot for swimming, watched over by lifeguards. There are many activities on offer - pedalos, stand-up paddle, kayaks, 3 graded mountain bike trails, an 18 hole golf course, fishing, or simply a lovely stroll around the lake. There is an easy waymarked trail of 6k. It is a great place for taking lunch, there is a cafe / restaurant on the water's edge.

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