

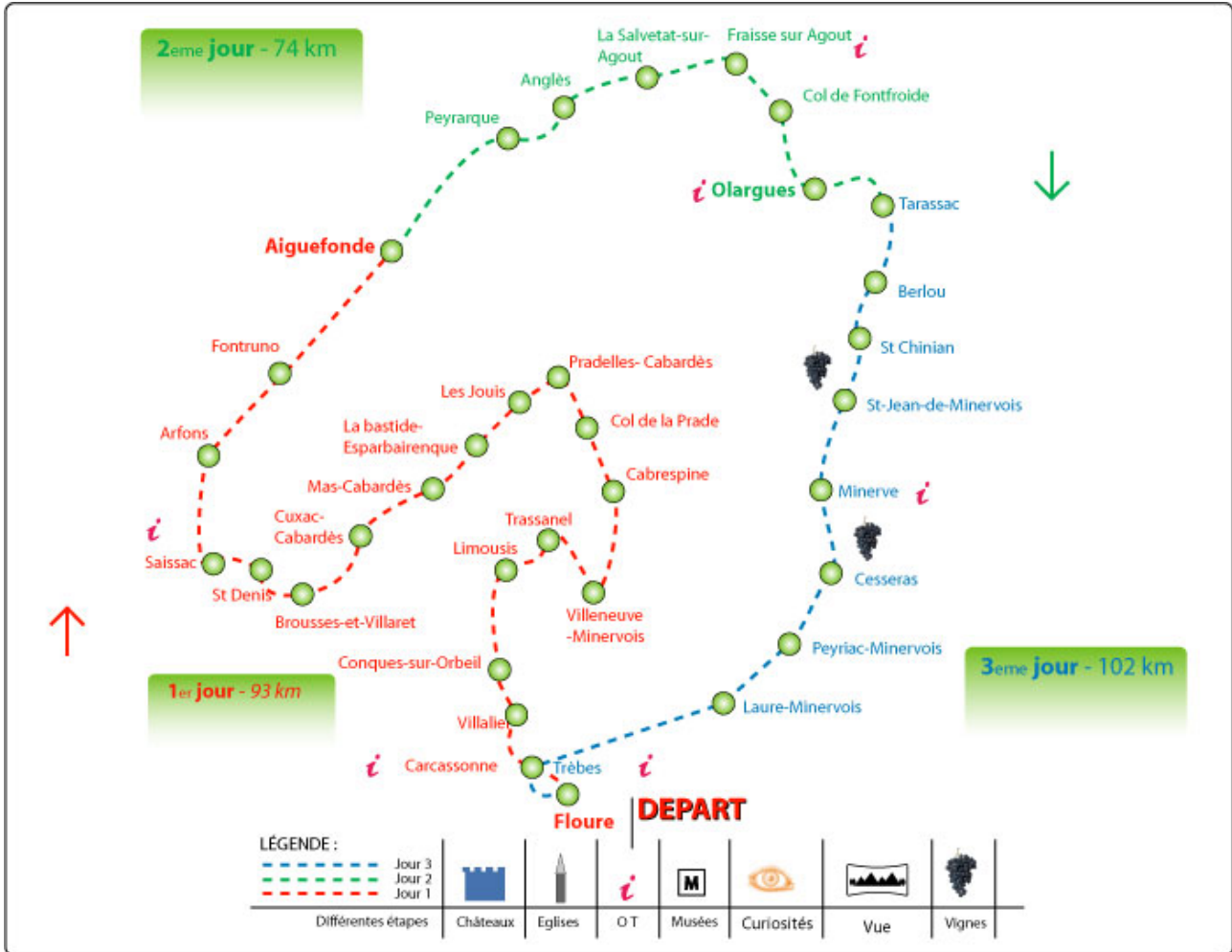


**Carcassonne between white vineyard and black mountain**  
Circuit N°13



This itinerary suggests the discovery of an exceptional heritage scattered in a great number of picturesque villages while enjoying a variety of unique landscapes.

<i>The travel book recommend the number of minimum days which can be devoted to the itinerary.</i>



From the rocky creeks, the fine sand beaches along the Mediterranean coast to the mountain resorts Pyrénées, Mounts of Lozère and the Massif Central, a wide variety of landscapes features the Languedoc Roussillon region.

What to discover : The unassailable fortresses in Pays Cathare, aens and grottoes (Clamouse, Limousis, Trabuc...), the impressive gorges of the Tarn river (Sainte Enemie), the Haut-Languedoc valley, the ski-resorts in the Cerdagne massif (Font Romeu, Pyrenées 2000, Formigueres...), the magical city of Carcassonne, la Camargue (birds, manades : bull farms), Nîmes the Roman city and its arenas.

Wines : Cabardès, Collioure, Corbières, Costières de Nîmes, Coteaux du Languedoc, Côtes de Malepère, Côtes du Roussillon, Faugères, Fitou, Limoux, Minervois, Saint-Chinian, banyuls.

Local Produce/Gastronomy : anchovy from Collioure, bourride, brandade, cassoulet, pâtés from Pezenas, cheeses (bleu des Causses, péladon) touron, catalan cream, croquant de Mende, tielles sétoises, oysters from Bouzigues.

Traditional Handicraft : Provencale cotton fabrics (souleiado, olivado), santons (traditional figures).



## Carcassonne between white vineyard and black mountain, Circuit N°13

1

### Day 1 :

During your stay do not miss the visit of Carcassonne. The city has been listed in the World Humanity Heritage since 1997, by UNESCO.

Settle down the Floure castle at the foot of Alaric Mountain. This former Roman abbey was the writer Gaston Bonheur's home who composed his works in this haven of peace and surrounded by a magnificent park in the French style.

The first day trip will lead you first to Trèbes where you will admire the majestic rampart of the city standing out from the plain of Minervoies. Before the foothills of the Black Mountain you will distinguish a few picturesque villages such as Conques-sur-Orbiel, or Salsigne with the famous gold and silver mines.

Before reaching the gorges of Clamoux which permits to appreciate the contrast between the slopes of the Black Mountain and the Roc of Tonnerre you will go past the Limousis Grotto, famous for its huge chandelier made of aragonite crystals.

After Cabrespine whose main curiosity is the giant abyss dug by the Clamoux waters, the road will rapidly climbs through the chestnut trees towards the Prade pass.

This rather picturesque itinerary will reveal the medieval villages of Mas-de-Cabardès and Saissac one being nestled at the foot of its castle while the other one is towered by ruins from the XIVth century.

At the end of the day you will sink into the forests of the Black Mountain before climbing up to Fontbruno at the foot of the Montaud Peak and eventually arrive in Aiguefonde the end of your journey.

1

### Day 1 : Road book

Crossed places and towns	N° of crossed roads	KM	Comments
FLOURE	N113	0.0	
TREBES	D101	6.0	
VILLALIER	D101	0.0	
CONQUES-SUR-ORBIEL	D101	8.0	
CROISEMENT	D511	5.0	
LIMOUSIS	D511	0.0	
TRASSANEL	D712	3.0	
VILLENEUVE-MINERVOIS	D112	3.0	
CABRESPINE	D112	5.0	
COL DE PRADE	D112	4.0	
PRADELLES-CABARDES	D112	0.0	
CROISEMENT	D	3.0	
LES JOUIS	D	0.0	
CROISEMENT	D9	1.0	
LABASTIDE-ESPARBAIRENQUE	D9	0.0	
ROQUEFERE	D9	0.0	
MAS-CABARDES	D9	6.0	
LA TOURETTE-CABARDES	D9	0.0	
CROISEMENT	D73	7.0	
CUXAC-CABARDES	D162	2.0	
CROISEMENT	D103	3.0	
BROUSSES-ET-VILLARET	D103	0.0	
SAINT-DENIS	D103	0.0	
SAISSAC	D4	10.0	
ARFONS	D14	7.0	
LES ESCUDIES	RF	3.0	
FONBRUNO	D56	4.0	
CROISEMENT	D53	7.0	
ENGELIS	D53	0.0	
AIGUEFONDE	D53	6.0	

1

### Day 1 : The lodgings suggested by french-itinerary.com



#### . FLOURE

Château de Floure (Hôtel) - 1 allée Gaston Bonheur - 11800 FLOURE  
Phone : 0468791129 - fax 0468790461 - @ : contact@chateau-de-floure.com

#### . AIGUEFONDE

Château d'Aiguefonde (Hôtel) - Château d'Aiguefonde - 81200 AIGUEFONDE  
Phone : 0563981370 - fax 0563986990

### Day 1 : Visits selected by french-itinerary.com

#### . CARCASSONNE

Visite en petit train (Curiosité) - Porte narbonnaise - 11000 CARCASSONNE  
Phone : 0468244570 - fax 0468244733

Visite en calèche (Curiosité) - Porte narbonnaise - 11000 CARCASSONNE  
Phone : 0468715457 - fax 0468715457 - @ : spidatel@cegetel.net

Promenade en bateau avec Solal (Curiosité) - 11000 CARCASSONNE  
Phone : 0607740457 - @ : manucarreira@caramail.com

Parc Australien (Curiosité) - chemin des bartavelles - 11000 CARCASSONNE  
Phone : 0468250507 - fax 0468255535 - @ : leparcaustralien@club-internet.fr

Musée des Beaux-Arts - 1, rue de Verdun - 11000 CARCASSONNE  
Phone : 0468777370

Closed : Du 15/06 au 15/09 tous les jours de 10h à 18h. Du 16/09 au 14/06 du mardi au samedi inclus de 10h à 12h et de 14h à 18h ainsi que les premiers dimanches des mois d'octobre à juin de 14h30 à 17h30.

Maison des Mémoires dite : Maison Joë Bousquet - 53, rue de Verdun - 11000 CARCASSONNE  
Phone : 0468724555 - fax 046825930

La cité des oiseaux (Curiosité) - Colline de Pech-Mary - 11000 CARCASSONNE  
Phone : 0468478899 - fax 0468478705 - @ : info@citedesoiseaux.com

Château comtal de la cité de Carcassonne (Château) - La Cité - 11000 CARCASSONNE  
Phone : 0468117070 - fax 0468117071

Centre Culturel de la Memoire Combattante (Curiosité) - 102 rue Trivalle - 11000 CARCASSONNE  
Phone : 0468724016

Basilique Saint-Nazaire (Eglise) - Place de l'Eglise - 11000 CARCASSONNE

#### . TREBES

Eglise Saint-Etienne (Eglise) - 11800 TREBES  
Phone : 0468788950

#### . LIMOUSIS

Grotte de Limousis (Curiosité) - 11600 LIMOUSIS  
Phone : 0468775026 - fax 0468784009 - @ : aime.benazet@wanadoo.fr

### Day 1 : The Notebook practises of french-itinerary.com

#### . Carcassonne

Véloland (Location de vélos) - 18 rue Jean Monnet - 11000 Carcassonne  
Phone : 0468716706

#### . CARCASSONNE

Office de Tourisme - 15 Bd Camille Pelletan - 11842 CARCASSONNE  
Phone : 0468102430 - fax 0468102438 - @ : carcassonne@wanadoo.fr

Location de bateaux - Société Nautic () - 15, quai Riquet - 11000 CARCASSONNE  
Phone : 0468718895

#### . TREBES

Office de Tourisme - 1 rue Pierre Loti - 11800 TREBES  
Phone : 0468788950 - fax 0468788950 - @ : trebes@fnotsi.net

#### . SAISSAC

Office de Tourisme - 1 place des Tours - 11310 SAISSAC



Phone : 0468244780 - fax 0468244780 - @ : saissac@fnotsi.net



## Carcassonne between white vineyard and black mountain, Circuit N°13

### 2 Day 2 :

After having spent a unique evening at the Castle of Aiguefonde (XIVth century) restored with talent, you will leave this majestic setting in the cathare land at the foot of the Black Mountain.

Venture in the Haut-Languedoc Natural Regional Park through a small countryside road scattered with hamlets.

On top of the Fauredon pass a circular view will enable the visitor to admire a magnificent panorama over the Saints-Peyrès lake as well as the Agout valley. After driving down to Anglès you will reach the dam of the immense Ravièrge lake. You will drive it around the lake on the right shore. You will enjoy the cool water lake on the beach of Bouldanires before reaching the summer resort La Salvetat-sur-Agout which is perched on a promontory overlooking the confluent of the Vèbre and Agout rivers.

From Fraisse-sur-Agout you will approach the Mounts of Espinouse. In Prat d'Alaric you will have the opportunity to visit a typical farm of Espinouse which is restored by the Natural Regional Park.

In direction of the Fontfroide pass you will cross the national forest of the Mounts of Espinouse which was planted at the end of the XIXth century. In a wild site the Fontfroide pass indicates the line where the waters separate between the Atlantic and Mediterranean sides.

Before driving down to Olargues through the plantations of green oak trees, olive trees and vineyards, you will cross the Poirier pass while watching the Mount of Somail.

Have a rest at Olargues a small picturesque village with its steep side streets.

### 2 Day 2 : Road book

Crossed places and towns	N° of crossed roads	KM	Comments
AIGUEFONDE	D53	0.0	
CROISEMENT	D	1.0	
CROISEMENT	N112	2.0	
PAYRIN-AUGMONTEL	D61	4.0	
VERMEILS	D61	0.0	
PEYRARGUE	D61	0.0	
LE RIALET	D61	12.0	
CROISEMENT	D68	2.0	
COL DU FAUREDON	D68	3.0	
ANGLES	D52	7.0	
LAC DE LA RAVIEGE	D52	0.0	
CROISEMENT	D14	6.0	
LA SALVETAT-SUR-AGOUT	D14	12.0	
FRAISSE-SUR-AGOUT	D14	10.0	
COL DE FONT-FROIDE	D14	4.0	
CROISEMENT	D908	10.0	
OLARGUES	D908	1.0	

### 2 Day 2 : The lodgings suggested by french-itinerary.com

#### . AIGUEFONDE

Château d'Aiguefonde (Hôtel) - Château d'Aiguefonde - 81200 AIGUEFONDE  
Phone : 0563981370 - fax 0563986990

#### . FRAISSE-SUR-AGOUT

Auberge de l'Espinouse (Hôtel) - Allée des Frenes - 34330 FRAISSE-SUR-AGOUT  
Phone : 0467954046 - fax 0467954502 - @ : aubergespinoise@caramail.com

#### . OLARGUES

Domaine de Rieumege (Hôtel) - route de Saint Pons - 34390 OLARGUES  
Phone : 0467977399 - fax 0467977852 - @ : rieumege@wanadoo.fr



**Day 2 : The Notebook practises of french-itinerary.com**

**. FRAISE SUR ARGOUT**

Office de Tourisme - Route de la Salvetat - 34330 FRAISE SUR ARGOUT  
Phone : 0467975381

**. OLARGUES**

Office de Tourisme - Avenue de la Gare - 34390 OLARGUES  
Phone : 0467977126 - fax 0467977128 - @ : otsi.olargues@voilà.fr



## Carcassonne between white vineyard and black mountain, Circuit N°13

### 3 Day 3 :

Before your departure enjoy the 14 hectare park in the Rieumégé Domain. There you will appreciate the wild nature quietness and authenticity which surround this home.

After this delicious stop you will leave Olargues to reach the gorges of Orb.

In Tarassac you will drive on a suspension bridge which provides the view over a former mill transformed into a leisure base.

You will travel quietly on a small scenic road set with a typically Mediterranean landscape with its plantations of oak trees and fig trees, its terrace cultures and the vineyards with the most famous vintages in Haut-Languedoc. Saint-Chinian owns a vineyard which has been exploited since the XIVth century. The vineyards grow on soils of schists, of limestone pebbles made white-hot in the southern sun. The wines usually display, a dark red robe with purplish reflection and their bouquet recalls red fruits and spices.

You will carry on your journey along the roads of Haut-Minervois to discover the exceptional site of Minerve laid on its rocky spur which towers the wild gorges of the Cesse. Upstream Minerve, you will slip along the Cesse canyon dried during the summer months.

As you leave Cessero, you will sink in an ocean of vineyards criss crossed by attractive roads punctuated with small Roman chapels or historical sites which recall the Cathare tragedy.

You will gradually turn back to the medieval city of Carcassonne.

### 3 Day 3 : Road book

Crossed places and towns	N° of crossed roads	KM	Comments
OLARGUES	D908	0.0	
TARASSAC	D14	7.0	
VIEUSSAN	D14	0.0	
CROISEMENT	D177	5.0	
BERLOU	D177	0.0	
PRADES-SUR-VERNAZOBRE	D177	0.0	
SAINT-CHINIAN	D177	21.0	
ASSIGNAN	D177	5.0	
SAINT-JEAN-DE-MINERVOIS	D176	5.0	
CAZELLES	D175E	4.0	
PAGUIGNAN	D175E	0.0	
VIALANOVE	D175E	0.0	
LA CAUNETTE	D10	6.0	
MINERVE	D10	4.0	
CROISEMENT	D182	3.0	
CESSERAS	D168	3.0	
SIRAN	D168	0.0	
PEYRIAC-MINERVOIS	D35	12.0	
LAURE-MINERVOIS	D135	5.0	
LAURE-MINERVOIS	N113	9.0	
FLOURE	N113	6.0	

### 3 Day 3 : The lodgings suggested by french-itinerary.com

#### . OLARGUES

Domaine de Rieumege (Hôtel) - route de Saint Pons - 34390 OLARGUES  
Phone : 0467977399 - fax 0467977852 - @ : rieumege@wanadoo.fr

#### . SIRAN

Château de Siran (Hôtel) - Avenue du Château - 34210 SIRAN  
Phone : 0468915598 - fax 0468914834 - @ : contact@chateau-de-siran.com  
[Fait partie du Pass'Reve, Consultez la rubrique Bons plans](#)

#### . PEYRIAC-MINERVOIS

Château de Violet (Hôtel) - Route de -epieu - 11160 PEYRIAC-MINERVOIS  
Phone : 0468781042 - fax 0468783001 - @ : Chateau.De.Violet@wanadoo.fr



#### **. FLOURE**

Château de Floure (Hôtel) - 1 allée Gaston Bonheur - 11800 FLOURE  
Phone : 0468791129 - fax 0468790461 - @ : contact@chateau-de-floure.com

### **Day 3 : Visits selected by french-itinerary.com**

#### **. SAINT CHINIAN**

Château Etienne La Dournie (Curiosité) - 34360 SAINT CHINIAN  
Phone : 0467381943 - fax 0467380037 - @ : chateau.ladournie@libertysurf.fr

#### **. CESSERAS**

Domaine de Candoulet (Viticulteur) - Chemin de Minerve - 34210 CESSERAS  
Phone : 0468911570 - fax 0468911570

### **Day 3 : The Notebook practises of french-itinerary.com**

#### **. OLARGUES**

Office de Tourisme - Avenue de la Gare - 34390 OLARGUES  
Phone : 0467977126 - fax 0467977128 - @ : otsi.olargues@voilà.fr

#### **. MINERVE**

Office de Tourisme - 9 rue des Martyrs - 34210 MINERVE  
Phone : 0468918143 - fax 0468918143 - @ : minerve@fnotsi.net

#### **. TREBES**

Office de Tourisme - 1 rue Pierre Loti - 11800 TREBES  
Phone : 0468788950 - fax 0468788950 - @ : trebes@fnotsi.net