



The jewels of the Roman and Gothic Art in Auvergne Circuit N°26



This itinerary will take you through vast forest stretches where you will discover some jewels of the Roman or Gothic art from the region at the bend in a path and in a verdant setting.

Vineyards and volcanoes will be present on the road for the greatest pleasure of your eyes.

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



Land of volcanoes and castles, Auvergne, scattered with lakes and forests, owns the richest Roman heritage in France and allies its modernity with the Vulcania park.

What to discover : The Medieval strongholds on the Allier river (La Palice castle, Bourbon stronghold, Archambault stronghold), The Cantal Mounts and its numerous Plombs and Puys, (le Puy Griou, le Puy Mary), The balneotherapy and fitness resorts : Vichy, La Bourboule, le Mont Dore, Royat, Chatel-Guyon. Le Lioran, summer and winter sport resort, la Chaise Dieu and its annual sacred musical festival ,St Julien basilica in Brioude, the Puy en Velay Black Virgin, Clermont-Ferrand historical centre.

Wines : Saint-Pourçain, Côtes d'Auvergne

Local Produce/Gastronomy : tripoux (tripes), cheeses (bleu d'Auvergne, Cantal, fourme d'Ambert, salers, saint-nectaire), green lentils (AOC), Mineral waters, Velay verbena, tablets from Vichy.

Traditional Handicraft : knife factory (Thiers) laces (Brioude, Le Puy en Velay), traditional paper mill(Ambert), umbrellas (Aurillac.)



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1 Day 1 :

At the heart of Auvergne the Vollore castle perched on a spur towers the plains of Dore and Limagne. You will live a mythical moment of France's History among the souvenirs from the marquis de La Fayette's descendants. As you leave Vollore, in the natural regional Park of the Auvergne volcanoes, a scenic road will lead you up to Noirétable with its outstanding High Gothic church from the XVth century.

Before entering the fir tree forests of the Forez Mounts you will travel in the vicinity of Notre Dame de l'Hermitage monastery, a very popular pilgrimage place since the XVIIIth century to honour the Holy Virgin.

At the Béal pass discover a superb panorama over the Mounts of Auvergne on the west side and the Lyonnais on the East side.

Before arriving in Ambert you will notice the XVth century church of Job with a view over the region.

Ambert is famous for its cheese. In the old quarter of Chazeaux a XVth century mansion houses the "Maison de la Fourme".

The vicinity of the forests and the abundance of water have allowed the paper industry growth. Only the Richard-de-Bas mill can give evidence of the masters and journeymen's past in this industry throughout the Val of Lagat.

You will cross the Mounts of Livradois before reaching Saint-Germain-L'Herm and its fortified church from the XIth century and its corbelled houses. You will find back the valley of Allier in Saint-Germain-Lembron and its XVIIIth century houses which display two-pointed roofs. This first journey will come to an end amid the vineyard.

1 Day 1 : Road book

Crossed places and towns	N° of crossed roads	KM	Comments
VOLLORE-VILLE	D	0.0	
CROISEMENT	D312	0.0	
LA CHAPELLE-TRINQUARD	D53	8.0	
NOIRETABLE	D110	7.0	
CROISEMENT	D	2.0	
LA FRESSENIÉ	D	0.0	
CROISEMENT	D	0.0	
MONASTÈRE DE L'HERMITAGE	D	3.0	
CROISEMENT	D101	0.0	
LA CHAMBA	D37	5.0	
LE BRUGERON	D102	5.0	
COL DU BEAL	D40	10.0	
SAINT-PIERRE-LA-BOURLHONNE	D66	6.0	
JOB	D66	10.0	
LA FORIE	D66	0.0	
CROISEMENT	D906	5.0	
AMBERT	D906	2.0	
CROISEMENT	D	0.0	
AUBIGNAT	D56	2.0	
CHAMPETIÈRES	D56	0.0	
CHAMBON-SUR-DOLORE	D56	0.0	
CROISEMENT	D37	14.0	
SAINT-GERMAIN-L'HERM	D999	5.0	
CROISEMENT	D33	1.0	
PESLIÈRES	D33	0.0	
JUMEAUX	D214	16.0	
AUZAT-LA-COMBELLE	D214	0.0	
CROISEMENT	D	5.0	
BEAULIEU	D725	0.0	
SAINT-GERMAIN-LEMBRON	D141	1.0	
COLLANGES	D141	1.0	



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

. CHAMBON-SUR-DOLORE

La Clairière (Hôtel) - 63980 CHAMBON-SUR-DOLORE
Phone : 0473721238 - fax 4073721751

. COLLANGES

Château de Collanges (Hôtel) - Château de Collanges - 63340 COLLANGES
Phone : 0473964730 - fax 0473965872 - @ : contact@chateaudcollanges.com



Day 1 : Visits selected by french-itinerary.com

. VOLLORE-VILLE

Château de Vollore (Château) - 63000 VOLLORE-VILLE
Phone : 0473537106

. AMBERT

Moulin Richard de Bas (Monument) - 63600 AMBERT
Phone : 0473820311

Maison de la Fourme et du Fromage (Curiosité) - 63600 AMBERT
Phone : 0473824923



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

. CLERMONT FERRAND

Office de Tourisme - Place de la Victoire - 63000 CLERMONT FERRAND
Phone : 0473986500 - fax 0473900411 - @ : tourisme@clermont-fd.com

Cycles Géral (Location de vélos) - 267 rue de l'Oradour - 63000 CLERMONT FERRAND
Phone : 0473262624

. CLERMONT-FERRAND

Automobile club AUVERGNE (Automobile club) - 3 rue Nicolas Cugnot - 63100 CLERMONT-FERRAND
Phone : 0473981680 - fax 0473981688 - @ : automobileclub.auvergne@wanadoo.fr

. NOIRETABLE

Office de Tourisme - 8 rue des Tilleuls - 42440 NOIRETABLE
Phone : 0477249304 - fax 0477249478 - @ : NOIRETABLE.OFFICE-TOURISME@wanadoo.fr

. AMBERT

Office de Tourisme - 4 place de l'Hôtel de Ville - 63600 AMBERT
Phone : 0473826190 - fax 0473824836 - @ : ambert.tourisme@wanadoo.fr

. SAINT GERMAIN-L'HERM

Office de Tourisme - route de la Chaise Dieu - 63630 SAINT GERMAIN-L'HERM
Phone : 0473720595 - fax 0473720595 - @ : officedetourisme@minitel.net



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2 Day 2 :

In the vicinity of the Côtes d' Auvergne vineyard and on the volcano road, the Collanges castle possesses an unbelievable charm.

When leaving the domain the traveller reach hills covered with vines which surround the village of Boudes with its coloured houses.

At the bend in a hill you will discover the Renaissance castle adjoins the village of Villeneuve. You will admire its XVth century church and the old houses.

You will cross the river Allier to climb up to the remains of the medieval castle of Nonette.

When travelling along the river Allier you will discover one of the jewels from the Auvergnat Roman art in Issoire : the former church of the Benedictine abbey Saint-Austremoine built in the XIIIth century.

The valley of Couze de Pavin will lead you first until Perrier, where the inhabitants dug caves which were used as cave dwellings, then you will reach a XIIIth century castle adjoining the village of Floret and eventually you will arrive in Saurier, this fortified town owns a superb Master of the Royal Wolf-hunt house.

The road rises towards Besse, a town with imposing houses and their roofs covered with slates or lauzes.

The road of crests turns around the Puy of Bessolles and will display the outstanding sites of Chambon lake and the fortress of Murol. In Saint-Nectaire you will pursue your pilgrimage to discover the Auvergnat Roman art. The church built in the XIIIth century occupies a superb site on the edge of the Mounts Dore and the Couze valley.

You will reach the Monne valley at Saint-Saturnin

2 Day 2 : Road book

Crossed places and towns	N° of crossed roads	KM	Comments
COLLANGES	D	0.0	
BOUDES	D48	3.0	
CROISEMENT	D717	3.0	
MAREUGHEOL	D720	2.0	
CROISEMENT	D125	1.0	
VILLENEUVE	D125	0.0	
CHALUS	D125	0.0	
CROISEMENT	D48	5.0	
LE BREUIL-SUR-COUZE	D722	3.0	
NONETTE	D722	0.0	
PARENTIGNAT	D996	6.0	
ISSOIRE	D996	4.0	
PERRIER	D26	5.0	
SAINT-FLORET	D26	0.0	
SAURIER	D621	13.0	
LE CHEIX	D619	5.0	
FAYET	D633	7.0	
BESSE-ET-SAINT-ANASTAISE	D5	5.0	
MUROL	D996	12.0	
SAINT-NECTAIRE	D640	5.0	
TREIZANCHES	D640	0.0	
CROISEMENT	D996	6.0	
CHAMPEIX	D28	5.0	
LUDESSE	D28	0.0	
SAINT-SATURNIN	D28	7.0	

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

. MONTAIGUT-LE-BLANC

Le Chastel de Montaigu (Chambres d'Hôtes) - Le Château - 63320 MONTAIGUT-LE-BLANC



Phone : 0473962849 - fax 0473962160

. SAINT-REMY-DE-CHARGNAT

Château de Paseron (Chambres d'Hôtes) - 63500 SAINT-REMY-DE-CHARGNAT
Phone : 0473710067 - fax 0473710872 - @ : pasredon@chateaux-france.com

Château de la Vernède (Chambres d'Hôtes) - 63500 SAINT-REMY-DE-CHARGNAT
Phone : 0473710703 - @ : chateauveruede@aol.com

. COLLANGES

Château de Collanges (Hôtel) - Château de Collanges - 63340 COLLANGES
Phone : 0473964730 - fax 0473965872 - @ : contact@chateaudcollanges.com

. PARENTIGNAT

Le Manoir d'Alice (Chambres d'Hôtes) - 29 route des Pradeaux - 63500 PARENTIGNAT
Phone : 0473899563 - @ : lamaisondalice@wanadoo.fr

. ISSOIRE

Le Pariou (Hôtel) - 18 avenue John Kennedy - 63500 ISSOIRE
Phone : 0473559037 - fax 0473559616 - @ : info@hotel-pariou.com

. SAINT SATURNIN

Château Royal de Saint Saturnin (Chambres d'Hôtes) - Place de l'Ormeau - 63450 SAINT SATURNIN
Phone : 0473396400 - fax 0473390973 - @ : chateaudesaintsaturnin@yahoo.fr

. SAINT-SATURNIN

La Maison des Archers (Hôtel) - rue de la boucherie - 63450 SAINT-SATURNIN
Phone : 0473393142 - @ : lamaisondesarchers@wanadoo.fr

Château Royal de Saint Saturnin (Hôtel) - Place de l'Ormeau - 63450 SAINT-SATURNIN
Phone : 0473393964 - fax 0473393086 - @ : chateaudesaintsaturnin@yahoo.fr

Fait partie du Pass'Reve, Consultez la rubrique Bons plans

2 Day 2 : Visits selected by french-itinerary.com

. BOUDES

Domaine Imbeau (Viticulteur) - rue de Dauzat - 63340 BOUDES
Phone : 0473964749 - fax 0473964900 - @ : jean-rene.imbeau@wanadoo.fr

. VILLENEUVE

Château de Villeneuve (Château) - 63000 VILLENEUVE

. ISSOIRE

Centre d'Art Roman Georges Duby - 63500 ISSOIRE
Phone : 0473895604

. SAINT FLORET

Eglise du Chastel (Eglise) - 63000 SAINT FLORET
Phone : 0473711039

Château (Château) - 63000 SAINT FLORET
Phone : 0473711039

. MUROL

Château de Murol (Château) - 63790 MUROL
Phone : 0473886711

. SAINT NECTAIRE

Maison du Saint Nectaire (Curiosité) - 63710 SAINT NECTAIRE
Phone : 0473885796

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

. ISSOIRE

Office de Tourisme - Place Charles de Gaulle - 63500 ISSOIRE
Phone : 0473891590 - fax 0473899613 - @ : ot.issuire.pays@wanadoo.fr



. BESSE ET SAINT-ANASTAISE

Office de Tourisme - Place du Dr Pipet - 63610 BESSE ET SAINT-ANASTAISE
Phone : 0473795284 - fax 0473795208 - @ : superbesse@teleposr.fr

. MUROL

Office de Tourisme - rue Jassagnet - 63790 MUROL
Phone : 0473886262 - fax 0473886023 - @ : information@grandevallee.com

. SAINT NECTAIRE

Office de Tourisme - Les Grands Thermes - 63710 SAINT NECTAIRE
Phone : 0473885086 - fax 0473884048 - @ : ot.saint-nectaire@wanadoo.fr



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3 Day 3 :

In the medieval Auvergnat home of Saint-Saturnin the magic of your stay is still reinforced by the environmental setting of the village perched above the gorges of Monne, which harbours a splendid Roman church from the XIIIth century as well as its octagonal church tower.

At Saint-Amand-Tallende you will cross the river Veyre.

You will travel around le Puy de Corent to find back the hills of the Corent vineyards. On top of the Puy the remains of a Gaul oppidum gaulois can still be seen. You will cross the Allier valley along a road overlooking the river to reach the medieval town of Vic-le-Comte.

When travelling along the foothills of the Mounts of Livradois you will discover the half-timbered houses from the medieval village of Billom amidst the hills. From the road which crosses the bocages of Limagne you will distinguish the medieval castle of Ravel, reorganized during the XVIIth century by the Estaing family. You will return to the Dore valley by travelling past the Aulteribe castle a witness of La Fayette family's past.

Courpière is the starting point for the small scenic train which runs along the gorge of la Dore in the direction of Ambert.

You will reach Thiers the cutlery industry capital in the north of la Limagne. In the upper town, at the bend in twisted side streets between half-timbered houses fitted with turrets you will discover magnificent views over the countryside and the Mounts Dôme.

The small twisted road which rises above the valley of Dore will enable the traveller to reach Valore the starting point for this "Itinerary of the vast stretches".

3 Day 3 : Road book

Crossed places and towns	N° of crossed roads	KM	Comments
SAINT-SATURNIN	D8	0.0	
SAINT-AMANT-TALLENDE	D96	1.0	
SOULASSE	D786	6.0	
CORENT	D786	0.0	
PORT-LONGUE	D225	5.0	
VIC-LE-COMTE	D229	5.0	
BILLOM	D229	14.0	
MOISSAT-LE-BAS	D10	7.0	
RAVEL	D20	3.0	
CROISEMENT	D308	3.0	
SERMENTIZON	D44	7.0	
AULTERIBE	D223	2.0	
COURPIERE	D58	3.0	
ESCOUTOUX	D45	9.0	
THIERS	D102	4.0	
SAINTE-AGATHE	D102	0.0	
CROISEMENT	D7	10.0	
VOLLORE-VILLE	D7	5.0	

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

. LEZOUX

Château de Codignat (Hôtel) - 63190 LEZOUX
Phone : 0473684303 - fax 0473689354 - @ : codignat@relaischateaux.com

. VEYRE-MONTON

Au Fond...de la Cour (Chambres d'Hôtes) - 1 avenue de l'Occitanie - 63960 VEYRE-MONTON
Phone : 0473697664 - fax 0473696532

. SAINT SATURNIN

Château Royal de Saint Saturnin (Chambres d'Hôtes) - Place de l'Ormeau - 63450 SAINT SATURNIN
Phone : 0473396400 - fax 0473390973 - @ : chateaudesaintsaturnin@yahoo.fr

. VOLLORE-VILLE

Château de Valore (Hôtel) - Château de Valore - 63120 VOLLORE-VILLE



Phone : 0473537106 - fax 0473537244 - @ : chateau.vollere@wanadoo.fr

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

. LES MARTRES-DE-VEYRE

GAEC (Viticulteur) - 63730 LES MARTRES-DE-VEYRE
Phone : 0473388641 - fax 0473398817

. RAVEL

Château de Ravel (Château) - 63000 RAVEL
Phone : 0473684463

. COURPIERE

Château d'Aulteribe (Château) - 63120 COURPIERE
Phone : 0473531455

. THIERS

Maison des Couteliers (Curiosité) - 63000 THIERS
Phone : 0473805886

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

. BILLOM

Office de Tourisme - 13 rue Carnot - 63160 BILLOM
Phone : 0473683985 - fax 0473683891 - @ : ot@stdb-auvergne.com

. THIERS

Office de Tourisme - Maison du Piran - 63000 THIERS
Phone : 0473806565 - fax 0473800132 - @ : ot.thiers@auvergne.net