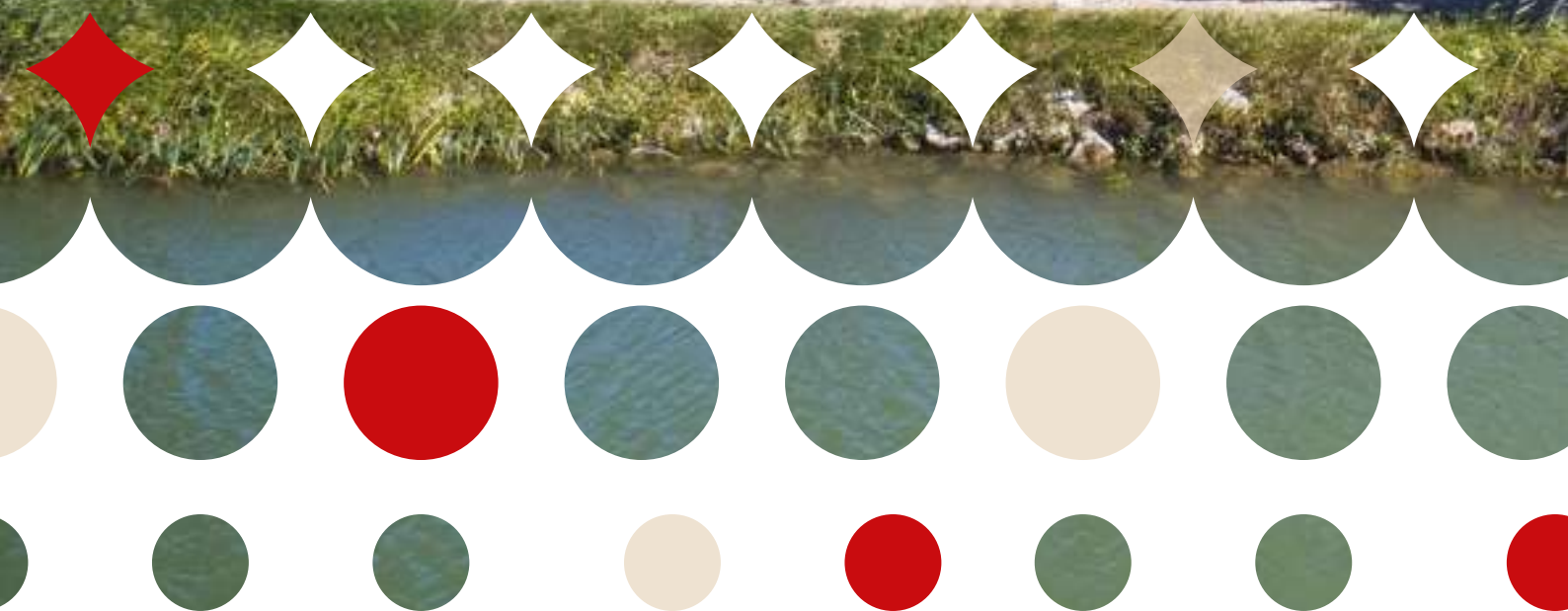


New for 2024  
Press Pack

Occitanie:  
a sporty, cool  
and eco-friendly  
destination



[visit-occitanie.com](http://visit-occitanie.com)

 **occitanie**  
Sud de France

## 4th biggest tourist region in France

accounting for **7%** of the regional business sector



with **15.9 BILLION** in financial returns in 2018



and an average of **125,000 JOBS** in tourism in 2019



accounting for **7%** of the regional business sector

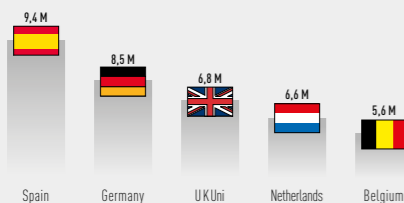


## French and overseas visitors



**220 MILLION** overnight stays in 2022 (6% more than 2019)  
French visitors accounted for 66% of overnight stays

Top inbound markets for overnight stays in 2022



## Biggest tourist accommodation capacity in France



over **6 MILLION** beds (potentially for tourists) including almost 1 million in the business sector.



almost **27.9 MILLION** overnight stays in outdoor accommodation in 2022 (number 1 in France)



**15.2 MILLION** overnight hotel stays



## Number 1 spa destination in France



with **136,000** spa clients insured by social services in 2022



accounting for almost **1/3** of the French hydrotherapy market (31%)



**Occitanie**  
Sud de France



## FRANCE'S SECOND-BIGGEST REGION,

13 'departments' in an area bigger than Ireland



## 10 SITES INSCRIBED ON UNESCO'S WORLD HERITAGE LIST

the Canal du Midi, Gavarnie - Mont Perdu, Way of St James, the Episcopal City of Albi, the Causses and the Cévennes, the Pont du Gard, the Historic Fortified City of Carcassonne, the Fortifications of Vauban (Villefranche-de-Conflent and Mont-Louis), The forest of Massane (Pyrénées-Orientales) and the 'Maison Carrée' (Nîmes)



## 2 NATIONAL PARKS



## 1 MARINE NATURE PARK



## 8 REGIONAL NATURE PARKS



## 44 WINTER SPORTS RESORTS



## 41 TOP OCCITANIE SITES

Agde-Pézenas, Aigues-Mortes - Camargue Gardoise - Saint Gilles, Albi - Vallée du Tarn, Ariège médiévale : Foix - Mirepoix - Montsegur, Ariège préhistorique : Niaux - Tarascon - Mas d'Azil, Armagnac - Abbaye et Cités, Auch, Aux sources du Canal du Midi (Sorèze, Revel, Saint Ferréol), Bastides et Gorges de l'Aveyron (Villefranche de Rouergue, Najac, St Antonin, Caylus, Villeneuve d'Aveyron), Canal du Midi - Béziers, Carcassonne et les Citadelles du vertige, Cévennes, Cirque de Gavarnie - Cauterêts - Pont d'Espagne, Cirque de Navacelles - Lodève, Collioure en Côte Vermeille, Conques, Cordes et cités médiévales, Gorges de l'Hérault - Gorges du Tarn, Gorges de la Jonte - Causses & Vallées Cévenoles, Grand Figeac, vallée du Lot et du Célé, La Grande-Motte, Le Grand Montauban, Lourdes, Luchon, Marciac, Massif du Canigò, Massif du Néouvielle-Vallée d'Aure et du Luron, Mende coeur de Lozère, Millau-Roquefort (regroupement de deux candidatures), Moissac, Montpellier, Narbonne Méditerranée, Nîmes - Pont du Gard - Uzès, Perpignan Méditerranée, Pic du Midi, Rocamadour Vallée de la Dordogne, Rodez, Saint-Bertrand de Comminges, Valcabrère, Sète, Toulouse, Vallée du Lot, Cahors, Saint-Cirq-Lapopie, Puy-l'Evêque



## 28 THERMAL SPA CENTRES



## 220 KILOMETRES OF MEDITERRANEAN COASTLINE



## MORE THAN 50 MARINAS



## EDITORIAL

Some media channels spent the summer 2023 criticising how damaging over-tourism is to the environment and people living in tourist hotspots, notwithstanding climate change and its consequences (heatwaves, droughts, fire etc.).

They would have you believe that the end is nigh for tourism in certain parts of the globe (the South of France in our case)! But don't panic!

As you read through our selection of eco-friendly new visitor sites, accommodation and things to do, you'll realise that here in Occitanie, we're always one step ahead and have come up with solutions. Tourism flows are handled with common sense. Somewhere to cool off?

There are lots: check out our advice and top tips! How about water? It's still flowing even if it is best to save it.

Just remember: "everything you want is in Occitanie!"

## CONTENTS

The events that everyone's talking about **P6**

Occitanie, sportier than ever **P7**

New sites to visit **P10**

Anniversaries to put in your diary **P13**

Major temporary exhibitions **P14**

Occitanie every which way... just stay cool! **P14**

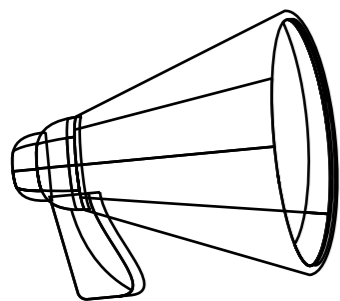
Occitanie, setting the standard for wine tourism **P16**

Dive into our artisan heritage **P18**

Our selection of eco-friendly and exciting accommodation **P19**

Shh! You didn't hear it from us! **P24**





# The events that everyone's talking about

## NÎMES (GARD)

### The Maison Carrée gives Occitanie its 10th UNESCO site

The Maison Carrée has been officially listed as World Heritage of Humanity for its outstanding universal value since 18 September 2023. The iconic Nîmes monument is the world's best-preserved ancient temple. Alongside the town's other archaeological sites (Arena, Tour Magne, Porte d'Auguste and Temple of Diane), the landmark will help make "French Rome" world-famous and boost its appeal. [www.arenas-nimes.com](http://www.arenas-nimes.com)

## TOULOUSE (HAUTE-GARONNE)

### The Minotaure puts on a show in the pink city

François Delarozière and La Machine Company are staging a new performance in the streets of Toulouse between 25 and 27 October 2024. Six years after their first and only trip to the city, Astérion (the minotaure) and Ariane (the spider) are back to give the crowds of spectators (900,000 people in 2018) a fantastic, thrilling show that's out of this world. [www.halldelamachine.fr/en/1203-2](http://www.halldelamachine.fr/en/1203-2)



### Did you know?

Out of the 52 UNESCO sites in France, 10 are in Occitanie. What a record! (please see page 3)



# Occitanie, sportier than ever

## TRAINING OR COMPETING, UP CLOSE WITH THE ATHLETES

The CNEA in Font-Romeu, Arlette Franco swimming pool in Canet-en-Roussillon, CREPS in Montpellier and Toulouse and Complex Euroméditerranéen in Montrodât (for para-sports) in Lozère are just a few of the Occitanie sites popular among French and foreign teams training for the Olympics. Follow in their footsteps and come to play your favourite sport in the outstanding playing field that is Occitanie!

## LE GRAU-DU-ROI (GARD)

### Learn to kitesurf or wing foil with the champions

Not only is kite foiling a new Olympic discipline for 2024, it's also the hottest sport on the Occitanie coast. You can join local kite schools to learn to surf at the famous Plage de l'Espiguette beach, "the Camargue's little Sahara", or at Port K (on Plage Sud in Port-Camargue). [www.letsgrau.com](http://www.letsgrau.com)

## NAUSSAC (LOZÈRE)

### Gravel ride... like a pro!

Join Margaux and her team for gravel training courses on the banks of Lake of Naussac in the unspoilt and natural Margeride. The 4 to 7 day courses include coaching (technique, cool-down and stretch sessions), guided rides, solo outings and meet-ups (sharing experiences) that are bound to get you hooked on this cool combination of road cycling and cyclocross. <https://naussac.com/en/page/bike-stays-welcome-lozere-naussac.18679.html>

## Original

You can also go wing surfing on lake Lac de Naussac (Lozère) and reach an altitude of almost 1000m!

[www.rodinparc-lozere.com/we-speak-english](http://www.rodinparc-lozere.com/we-speak-english)



### Did you know?

The French kitesurfing elite train at Le Grau du Roi all year round. You're bound to run into champions in the making or top athletes on the beach or in the skies.



## MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS IN OCCITANIE IN 2024

Although the Olympic events will not be held in Occitania, other major sporting competitions will be held here in 2024!

April May	<b>Mondial du Vent</b> <b>FISE (International Festival of Extreme Sports)</b>	WATER SPORTS EXTREME SPORTS	Leucate (Aude)
July August Septembre	<b>Tour de France</b> <b>GRP (Grand Raid des Pyrénées)</b> <b>Mountain Bike World Cup</b>	TRAIL RUNNING CYCLISME	Montpellier (Hérault) 5 cycling stages in Occitanie Vielle-Aure (Hautes-Pyrénées) Loudenvielle (Hautes-Pyrénées)
September October November	<b>Les 160 km de Florac</b> <b>30th Festival des Templiers</b> <b>Toulouse Marathon</b>	ENDURANCE RIDING TRAIL RUNNING RACE	Florac (Lozère) Millau (Aveyron) Toulouse (Haute-Garonne)

## ON FOOT OR BY BIKE

### RODEZ – CONQUES (AVEYRON)

#### Spring 2024: Inauguration of the GR62 Rodez-Conques "In the steps of Pierre Soulages" hiking trail

Pierre Soulages is a contemporary artist whose work was influenced by the Rouergue landscapes and the mark left by mankind, from prehistory to Roman art. The trail runs from the museum devoted to him in his hometown of Rodez to Conques Abbey, where he designed 104 stained glass windows. Take a walk in his footsteps and soak up his life and inspirations. It takes you on a journey of discovery through the vast expanses of the Causse Comtal, the enchanting Vallon de Marcillac and the wild, rocky ridges of the Ségala de Conques.  
<https://gr-infos.com/en/gr62.htm>



### LAGUIOLE (AVEYRON)

#### **Bike and cheese: a mouth-watering cycling route for visitors.**

Experience the best of both worlds: fine food and the great outdoors. Ride on small roads to uncover speciality cheeses in Aubrac and Carladez. This bike tourism route takes you from farm to farm, market to cheesemonger, to introduce you to Laguiole AOP and other North Aveyron cheeses.

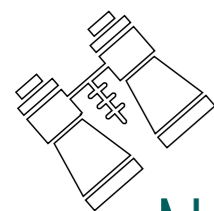
[www.tourisme-en-aubrac.com/en/activites-pleines-nature/cyclo/velo-et-fromages](http://www.tourisme-en-aubrac.com/en/activites-pleines-nature/cyclo/velo-et-fromages)



### 5 STAGES OF THE TOUR DE FRANCE IN OCCITANIE

- Thursday 11 July 2024,**  
Aurillac – Villeneuve-sur-Lot (via Lot)
- Friday 12 July 2024,**  
Agen – Pau (via Gers)
- Saturday 13 July 2024,**  
Pau – Saint-Lary-Soulan / Plat d’Adet
- Sunday 14 July 2024,**  
Loudenvielle – Plateau de Beille
- Monday 15 July 2024,**  
Gruissan (Aude) - rest day
- Tuesday 16 July 2024,**  
Gruissan – Nîmes





## New sites to visit



### CARCASSONNE (AUDE)

#### Travel back to the Middle Ages in the fortified city of Carcassonne

A medieval camp has just opened in the ramparts. Take a trip back in time and visit the Medieval Camp with 8 tents, each housing a trade essential to any journey's success: apothecary, scribe, chainmail maker, blacksmith and other characters for you to meet. Join one of the guides for an experience packed with history and stories.

[www.tourisme-carcassonne.fr/en](http://www.tourisme-carcassonne.fr/en)



### LODÈVE (HÉRAULT)

#### Touch the sky at the belltower at St Fulcran Cathedral

St Fulcran Cathedral is a beacon of Southern French Gothic architecture and its belltower is due to open to visitors in spring after a 2 year renovation (the most work the building has seen since the 18th century). New display areas have been set up (on the 1st floor) along with a 57m high viewing platform with unobstructed views of Lodève. The opening weekend on 18 and 19 May 2024 will bring a party atmosphere to town with a fire & light show by Compagnie Carabosse (both nights at 9pm) and a one-off poetic creation.

[www.tourisme-lodevois-larzac.fr](http://www.tourisme-lodevois-larzac.fr)

### Suggested article

*'Views of Occitanie towns and cities from the top of their iconic landmarks'*



### ESCAMPS (LOT)

#### Phosphatière Tempories: a beacon at the UNESCO Geopark

The Tempories Geosite in the Causses du Quercy Regional Nature Park, one of the UNESCO Global Geoparks, is the place to visit a "phosphatière" or phosphate pit (a natural pit where phosphate was mined in the 19th century). To complete the facilities, the Park has turned the former site cabin into a small museum about the geological history and phosphate pits.

[www.parc-causses-du-quercy.fr](http://www.parc-causses-du-quercy.fr)

### CAZALS (LOT)

#### The first French museum devoted entirely to the history of Mecanic Art

Delve into the collections from 1868 up to the present day at Laubie Mecanic Art and feast your eyes on the first velocipede alongside work by Ernest Montaut and his wife Gamy. The Gamys were seen as the "parents" of "Vitesse Automobile" illustration and Mecanic Art. The museum has been providing virtual tours since 2023 so you can explore the museum's displays at your leisure.

[www.museemecanicart.com/en](http://www.museemecanicart.com/en)



#### Did you know?

Occitanie is heaven for budding palaeontologists. Dinosaurs and prehistoric creatures thrived here in the Jurassic Period and there are several prehistoric sites open to visitors.

### Suggested article

*'Jurassic Park: Occitanie' (ask for our detailed sheet)*



### MENDE (LOZÈRE)

#### Larger-than-life dinosaurs at Dinopédia Park

Dinopédia theme park opened in the 2nd half of 2023 and plays host to life-size replicas of the Variraptor, Oviraptor, Spinosaurus and T-Rex whose movements and sounds make them seem real. Children, adults and palaeontology enthusiasts will love spotting them along a path snaking through the forest deep in the Causses where they lived... 66 million years ago.

<https://lozere.dinopedia-parc.fr>



### BARÈGES (HAUTES-PYRÉNÉES)

#### Pépinière Céleste, a new astronomy centre deep in the Pic du Midi International Dark Sky Reserve

From summer 2024, the gardener's hut in the old Barèges nursery, on the road to the legendary Col du Tourmalet (Tour de France), will be transformed into a stargazing area. A short stroll from the centre of the village will take you there after a few twists and turns. It's a short winding walk from the town centre to get here. Then just settle back on the wooden sofas and loungers to soak up the Pic du Midi International Dark Sky Reserve.

[www.valleesdegavarnie.com/en/bareges-tourmalet](http://www.valleesdegavarnie.com/en/bareges-tourmalet)

## OTHER STARGAZING SPOTS IN THE PIC DU MIDI INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY RESERVE:

Pic du Midi, Aulon, Hautacam and Lac de l'Oule on the edge of Néouvelle Nature Reserve.



### Did you know?

The Cévennes National Park means two out of France's three International Dark Sky Reserves are in Occitanie. Add on the Quercy black triangle (Lot) and our region dazzles among the star destinations for gazing at the night sky.



## SALSÉS-LE-CHÂTEAU (PYRÉNÉES-ORIENTALES)

### Rivesaltes Camp with virtual reality

The Rivesaltes Camp Memorial is here to help us "Shed light on the past to illuminate the future." The site has a painful history and is where thousands of people were imprisoned (Republicans, Spanish people from La Retirada, Jews, gypsies, harkis etc.). The world of the future belongs to the next generations and the Rivesaltes Camp Memorial has designed a pioneering cultural tool to provide a unique, immersive and interactive experience: young visitors step into the shoes of a character and take part in a challenge visiting different periods at the camp to give them an insight into the times and issues.

[www.memorialcamp rivesaltes.eu/en](http://www.memorialcamp rivesaltes.eu/en)



## RABASTENS (TARN)

### The UNESCO Notre-Dame du Bourg Church is reopening after a 5-year renovation!

The church is a beacon for Southern French Gothic architecture and listed as a UNESCO site as part of the Ways of St James. It was actually home to Saint James' relics until the French Revolution. The restoration has updated 3500m<sup>2</sup> of paintings, some dating back to the 15th century, and revealed the majesty of a place that stands out for its size, iconography and colour palette.



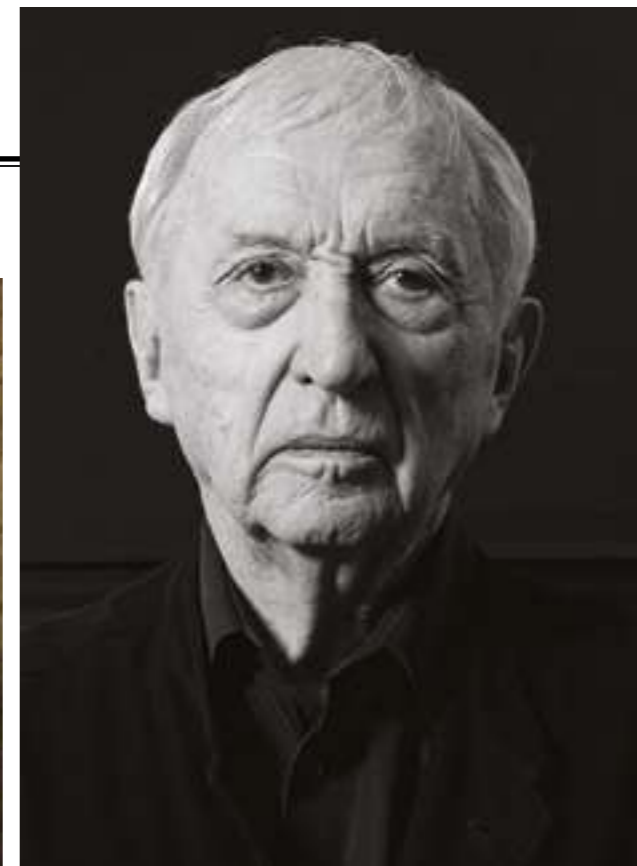
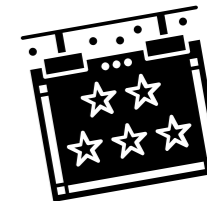
## PENNE (TARN)

### The fortress Penne reveals its darkest secrets in 2024!

A new museum is opening inside "Forteresse de Penne" to share the history of one of the Gorges de l'Aveyron's most famous monuments. It brings the Middle Ages back to life with a collection of archaeological items uncovered during excavations conducted here since 2007. A footpath called "le sentier des bonhommes" (the Cathar trail) has just opened so you can walk all around the castle to see every side to it

[www.chateau-penne.com/castle-of-penne](http://www.chateau-penne.com/castle-of-penne)

# Anniversaries to put in your diary



## RODEZ (AVEYRON)

### 2014-2024: 10 years of success at Musée Soulages

Pierre Soulages, the undisputed master of outrenoir (beyond black), was always loyal to Occitanie, from his birth in Rodez in 1919 to his death at 103 years old. His iconic and often colossal pieces are on display at the Rodez museum devoted to the artist as well as the Musée Fabre in Montpellier. An exciting line-up of events has been announced to celebrate the Musée Soulages's 10th anniversary, including a major exhibition:

### "Lucio Fontana. A future in the past. Un futuro c'e stato" 22 June to 3 November 2024

The painter, sculptor and ceramic artist Lucio Fontana will have a major exhibition in Rodez following his showcase at the Centre Pompidou (1987) and Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris (2014). Pierre Soulages saw subtle bonds between space and time when he looked at Fontana's work (1899-1968) and his own. <https://musee-soulages-rodez.fr/en>

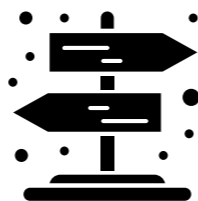
## CONQUES (AVEYRON)

### 30th anniversary of Pierre Soulages's stained-glass windows at Sainte-Foy Abbey!

The 30th anniversary of the inauguration of Pierre Soulages's stained-glass windows will put the spotlight back on the contemporary work that dialogues with Sainte-Foy Abbey's Romanesque architecture and sculptures in Conques. Join your guide in the tribunes to get up close and personal with 104 windows as you learn how the project came to be, Pierre Soulages's creative process and the secrets of this unique glass whose colours change with the natural light.

[www.tourisme-conques.fr/en](http://www.tourisme-conques.fr/en)

# Major temporary exhibitions



## CASTRES (TARN)



**6 July - 3 November 2024 at Musée Goya and Hispanic Art "Damien Deroubaix; La vida es sueño"**

Damien Deroubaix (Lille, 1972) is a world-renowned French painter, sculptor and engraver whose work appears in the biggest French museum collections, including the Centre Pompidou and modern/contemporary art museums in Saint-Etienne and Strasbourg. Castres has devoted a retrospective to him this year. [www.museegoya.fr/en](http://www.museegoya.fr/en)



## ALBI (TARN)



**30 March - 30 June 2024 at Musée Toulouse-Lautrec "René Iché (1897-1954). Art in Struggle"**

Palais de la Berbie will showcase the work of René Iché this spring. The modern French sculptor was close to the surrealists and a pioneer in the French Resistance during World War II. <https://musee-toulouse-lautrec.com/en>

## L'Occitanie by all means ... and "cool" if possible!



Our ever-original ideas to see another side to Occitanie, be dazzled, have fun, with family or friends...

## CORN (LOT)



**An evening outing... sketching in Indian ink!**

The visitor trail uncovering night-time scenery in Corn gives you the chance to soak up the evening landscapes with Indian ink. This is a truly original twilight artistic experience. Look inside yourself, take a break, meditate, feel, listen and sketch the landscapes... In the torch and starlight, you'll capture details that merge together and shadows that lengthen. Who knows? By the end of your unique outing, you may even spot the fantastic creatures that guard the trail. [www.parc-causses-du-quercy.fr](http://www.parc-causses-du-quercy.fr)

## SORÈZE (TARN)



**Join the Guardians of Silence on a treasure hunt... at night!**

Once upon a time, there was a little village at the bottom of the Montagne Noire. It was called Soricinii. Everyone in the south of the kingdom knew that it was home to a priceless treasure... a golden mountain! The treasure was hidden and closely guarded for centuries by the monks at the village abbey. They were known as the Guardians of Silence... Scour the village streets to find the treasure at nightfall. Who knows? You could be the next Indiana Jones. <https://tourism.auxsourcesducanaldumidi.com>



## ALBI (TARN)



**Vintage "by night" tour of the Episcopal City in a 2 CV**

Join your guide Marc on board Griotte, a cute 2CV that flies the flag for Occitanie. Take a panoramic tour of the UNESCO episcopal city streets visiting its landmarks and must-see sites: Sainte-Cecile Cathedral, Pont Vieux, Toulouse-Lautrec's childhood home, little medieval lanes and more. You'll know Albi like the back of your hand by the end! Don't miss the tour "by night"! <https://letacotcathare.fr/en>



## LARTIGUE (GERS)

**A unique siesta "with the bees"**

Beekeeper Anne Sintes brings you a unique siesta: lie down for a nap above the hives in a hut designed for two with total peace of mind. The softly buzzing bees, vibrations, air fragrant with honey, wax, propolis, pollen and royal jelly create the perfect environment for you to totally relax. <http://uk.tourisme-3cag-gers.com/>

## LE GRAU-DU-ROI (GARD)

**Electric paddleboarding is all the rage...**

Enjoy your trip at sea on the ocean's very own e-scooter. This kind of paddleboarding is fun, leisurely and easy to get the hang of. See you at Mini Beach Plage Nord. Bring your swimwear! [www.letsgrau.com](http://www.letsgrau.com)



# Occitanie, setting the standard for wine tourism

Occitanie is the biggest vineyard in the world (in terms of AOC-AOP surface area) and is constantly coming up with exciting ways to attract wine tourism enthusiasts. Let's take a look at the latest projects...



**TOP TIP**

Take the train to Magalas where you can hire bikes and hook up with the route for a zero carbon outing.



## LÉZIGNAN CORBIÈRES (AUDE)

**Exéa: a 100% biodynamic vineyard that's set the standard**

Château de Sérame is a respected family-run vineyard that's pioneering a new take on French vine growing and brings you a bespoke tour. Get a warm welcome at this leafy haven between Toulouse and Montpellier, fuelled by a dedicated eco-friendly policy. You get more than just a tasting and tour; it's a meeting of minds, a chance to be part of and explore a premium product: wine

[www.lesvignoblesdexea.fr](http://www.lesvignoblesdexea.fr)



## GAILLAC (TARN)

**The OEnorandos® weave their web in the Gaillac vineyard**

An "oenorando" is a walk from a winery to explore the surrounding heritage and biodiversity. Meet the winemaker and end your walk with a tasting. Two new "wine hikes" will be launched in 2024: "From the vine to the olive tree" between the Domaine Gayrard winery and Domaine Oléicole Rigaud and "The winemakers' circle" in the Gaillac hillside vineyards.

[www.tourisme-tarn.com/sejour/balades-randonnees/oenorandos](http://www.tourisme-tarn.com/sejour/balades-randonnees/oenorandos)



## ST-CHINIAN (HÉRAULT)

**After the success of the OEnorandos, here come the OEnovélos**

In line with the OEnotour's 26 OEnorandos® (walks and wine tastings), the Oenovélos are coming to introduce you to the Hérault's vineyards... by bike! The first 70km Oenovélo loop (launched in December 2023) runs from St Chinian to the Canal du Midi along greenways and small roads through the Languedoc vineyards. The Département will be home to 21 Oenovélo routes by 2028 to help you reduce the carbon footprint of your stay as you explore the landscapes and vineyards.

## VAUVERT (GARD)

**An exciting sensory experience to get to know the "Vin des Sables"**

Maud at Le Mas Saint Pierre takes visitors on a fascinating adventure through the family vineyard. Every step of the way, she tantalises each and every sense with the wonder of ampelography. Learn to identify a grape variety by looking at its vine stock, touching its leaves or tasting its grapes...

<https://ot-aiguesmortes.com/en>

## PUISSERGUIER (HÉRAULT)

**"Le Petit Béret": the world's 1st winery devoted to non-alcoholic wine**

This is the world's first winery devoted to non-alcoholic wine with the most award-winning and extensive selection of alcohol-free wine. The palatial winery oozes history and brings you a unique wine tourism experience that absolutely anyone can be part of. Let the good times flow! !

<https://lepetitberet.com/en>

## SAINT-JEAN-DE-FOS (HÉRAULT)

**An art & wine class with the painter David Rycroft**

David launched his Art & Wine classes in 2023 to give visitors the chance to taste Hérault Valley wine as they master painting techniques: an all-round experience bringing the sensory pleasure of wine together with artistic flair.

[www.saintguilhem-valleeherault.fr/en](http://www.saintguilhem-valleeherault.fr/en)

# Dive into our artisan heritage

## MILLAU (AVEYRON)

### 100 years of luxury and prestige at Ganterie Fabre

Since the Maison Fabre brand was founded in 1924, 4 generations of glovemakers have taken the helm of one of the world's most prestigious leather glove manufacturers. Jean-Louis Trintignant, Nicole Kidman, Grace Kelly, Louis de Funès, Steve McQueen and Brigitte Macron are just a few of the famous names to have worn Maison Fabre gloves. French haute couture brands such as Hermès, Dior and Vuitton still swear by the premier glovemakers.

<https://maisonfabre.com/en>



## PUY-L'ÉVÊQUE (LOT)

### The Virebent porcelain manufacturer is 100 years young

Cartier, Rothschild and Olivier Gagnère are some of the luxury brands that have already signed a number of collections by Virebent. The 100-year-old business is always up-to-date and is celebrating its anniversary with exhibitions, conferences, guided workshop tours, art installations, a special Cahors wine edition, clay/enamel events and introductory classes. Virebent is a family business with the prestigious EPV (Entreprise du Patrimoine Vivant) label recognising it as a "Living Heritage Company"

[www.virebent.com/en](http://www.virebent.com/en)



# Our selection of eco-friendly and unique accommodation



HOTELS, VILLAGES AND B&BS: OUR "TOP PICKS" 

## IN TOWN

### CAHORS (LOT)

#### La Bellours: A B&B with a pool in the heart of Cahors (4 "ears of corn" rating)!

The building dates back to 1886 and was fully renovated in 2023. La Bellours lies in the heart of Cahors and, unusually for a B&B in the town centre, it has an outdoor pool (and a car park). Enjoy the balcony terrace where you can relax after your city sightseeing or to enjoy breakfast, while Eve, the owner of the premises, will pamper you in her salon (facial or body treatments, etc.)

[www.cahorsvalleedulot.com/en/sit/la-bellours](http://www.cahorsvalleedulot.com/en/sit/la-bellours)



## IN THE MOUNTAINS

### SAINT-LARY (HAUTES-PYRÉNÉES)

#### Ô chalet d'en bas!: a luxury villa true to traditional mountain building techniques

This 250m2 chalet sleeps up to 15 and has a huge panoramic terrace. It has been built entirely using premium eco-friendly materials. It has 4 large bedrooms and a dormitory all with ensuite bathrooms, as well as a lounge with a cosy stone fireplace. There's also a wellness area with a gym and state-of-the-art sauna, a bar and a games room. What's not to like!

[www.ochaletdenbas.com](http://www.ochaletdenbas.com)



**SAINT-LARY (HAUTES-PYRÉNÉES)****Chalets with personality at Les Hauts de Saint-Lary hamlet**

Enjoy premium facilities at these chalets: a concierge service to book your activities, a spa for massages, a deli selling local produce, a warm welcome for cyclists and a fine dining restaurant with a catering service on request. [www.leshautsdesaintlary.com/en](http://www.leshautsdesaintlary.com/en)

**SAINT-LARY (HAUTES-PYRÉNÉES)****Hôtel Mir awarded its fourth star!**

Be dazzled by this traditional yet modern haven and its unspoilt and sophisticated Pyrenean style deep in the village of Saint-Lary. Stay in one of 20 spacious rooms with views of the peaks or grounds from their balconies. Sate your appetite at La Pergola restaurant. Enjoy dishes made using premium produce at the restaurant inside the hotel. <https://hotelmir.fr/en/hotel-saint-lary>

**BY THE SEA****AIGUES-MORTES (GARD)****Slow life on the Bed and Bicycle barge**

The brand-new Bed and Bicycle barge moored by the city walls in Aigues-Mortes is a unique, quirky and authentic place to stay. Enjoy a unique waterfront experience and the endless possibilities of exploring the Camargue Gardoise and Aigues-Mortes on canals designed for pleasure boating..

[www.lapeniche.biz/la-peniche-bed-and-bicycle/en](http://www.lapeniche.biz/la-peniche-bed-and-bicycle/en)

**IN THE COUNTRYSIDE****MONTPÉZAT (GERS)****"Au temps suspendu": a villa in a bakery (rated 4 "ears of corn")**

You can't help but fall in love with this unique Gers setting with its brick oven, stone and clay-coated walls: this former bakery may have a fresh look but it's held onto its charm.

[www.gitelejardinsecret32.com/en-GB](http://www.gitelejardinsecret32.com/en-GB)

**PÉZENAS (HÉRAULT)****Eco-friendly ecolodges at Château du Parc**

15 outstanding ecolodges are opening at Château du Parc in mid-2024 on the 70ha estate near the château (16th century) built by Henri de Montmorency, the 3rd Duke of Montmorency. They are built from natural materials and promote sustainable tourism. The Parc et Lumières event, a night-time adventure that launched in June 2023, will also be back from June to September.

<http://giteshautdegamme-spa-chateau-herault.com/en-gb>  
[www.parc-lumieres.com/enn](http://www.parc-lumieres.com/enn)

**THÉRONDELS (AVEYRON)****Basalture, a B&B fuelled by slow tourism**

Hiking and gardening enthusiast Griet used to be a firefighter in Brussels. Kristof ran a premium bicycle shop and loves photography, drystone craft and wood turning. The two foodie linguists (Dutch, English and German) greet guests from all over the world with a warm welcome in their traditional B&B and run activities such as forest bathing <https://basalture.fr/en>

**VALLABRÈGUES (GARD)****Maison Salix, a contemporary slow resort in Provence Gardoise**

Maison Salix in Provence gardoise is a modern retreat for free spirits, creatives, travellers, artists and anyone looking for a home away from home. This is a real contemporary slow resort where comfort and community rule. Each and every stone, moulding, beam or engraving captures the region's history by showcasing amazing cultural heritage paired with detailed, antique, eclectic and exciting decoration..

[www.maisonsalix.com/en](http://www.maisonsalix.com/en)

**LAGRASSE (AUDE)****La Bouquerie: a contemporary hotel in one of the "Plus beaux villages de France®"**

La Bouquerie brings contemporary accommodation to a historical building looking onto the square in one of the "Most Beautiful Villages in France". In a unique setting, you can soak up the subtle blend of vintage and modern by Samuel Salcedo and Willie Verginer, and indulge in kitchen and bathroom fittings by luxury brand VIPP.

[www.bouquerielagrasse.com/en](http://www.bouquerielagrasse.com/en)



**LECTOURE (GERS)****A former 18th century Manufacture Royale**

The Manufacture Royale de Lectoure is the only entirely preserved 18th century factory in the South West! The architecture alone is a thing of beauty; turning it into luxury accommodation and a villa for pilgrims is equally impressive!

<https://lamanufacture-royaledellectoure.com/en>

**BESSONIES (LOT)****Introducing a Marshal of the Empire at Château de Bessonies**

Join Philippe and Christophe at their château between Quercy and Monts du Cantal whose rooms and suites are named after the French Republican calendar: Floréal, Prairial, Messidor and Thermidor. Their little museum keeps the memory of Marshal Ney alive. He was one of Napoleon's military commanders and was arrested here in 1815. You can book a tour to see the Marshal's chambers, library, reception rooms and furniture as well as the grounds whose sleek topiary, shrubs and hornbeams only add to the magic of the place.

<https://en.tourisme-figeac.com/offers/chateau-de-bessonies-bessonies-en-4026670>

**Saint-Julien-d'Arpaon (LOZÈRE)****Les Copains à Bord, your unspoilt social accommodation on the Stevenson Trail**

Italy, Le Mans, Paris ... Three friends with unusual backgrounds and stories, all with a common dream: to welcome you for an informal stay (but with all the modern comforts!) to choose from among the 5 chambres d'hôtes, 3 roulottes, 3 gîtes and even a camping area, that they have set up in the heart of the village, with the common thread of everyone being part of the same gang of friends. Time for an aperitif! Here's to you!

[www.chambre-table-hotes-cevennes.com](http://www.chambre-table-hotes-cevennes.com)

**MONTBARLA (TARN-ET-GARONNE)****A night in a working water mill**

Moulin de Salazar is home to 4 design-led guestrooms (Adélaïde, Alexandrine, Victoria and Eugénie) inspired by nature. The B&B stands in a fantastic working 19th century water mill deep in Quercy Blanc and near Lauzerte, one of the "Most Beautiful Villages in France". Join the owners Marie-Pierre and Jérémy to experience a unique and relaxing place that oozes history then feast on their local, organic and indulgent dishes at their table d'hôtes.

<https://moulindesalazar.com/en>

**EXCITING AND UNEXPECTED ACCOMMODATION****BOYNE (AVEYRON)****La Pyramide aux étoiles**

This quirky guestroom lies next to the Gorges du Tarn in the great outdoors. The glass and wood building stands out for its charm and originality. The glass design means you can feast your eyes on the views, surrounding flora and fauna and the sky above. Soak up the peace and quiet here amongst the trees and plants.

[www.gites-cabanes-spa-aveyron.com/en-gb](http://www.gites-cabanes-spa-aveyron.com/en-gb)

**BARJAC (GARD)****Spend a night in a pilot's shoes on board a 60s Cessna 170 plane**

Natura Lodge (yurts, treehouses, stilt houses, cocoon tree) lies in woodland approved by Clef Verte and Refuge LPO\*. What sets it apart are its fitted-out Cessna 170 and the next-door watch tower themed on "Petit Prince" by St Exupéry with views as far as the belltower in Barjac, a village of character with the "organic and pesticide-free" label.»

**L'ISLE-BOUZON (GERS)****A half-buried troglodyte hobbit house!**

Domaine de Fallot is jam-packed with quirky eco-friendly lodgings with the launch of a half-troglodyte, half-hobbit house joining the likes of the treehouse (with the bed that pulls out outside) and a villa big enough for groups of friends.

[www.lescabanesdefallot.com/rn](http://www.lescabanesdefallot.com/rn)

**MONTPEZAT DE QUERCY (TARN-ET-GARONNE)****Cosy up in a vaulted cellar**

Have a night to remember at Le Secret de Montpezat-de-Quercy B&B in its beautifully-renovated cellar with a medieval vaulted ceiling. Soak up the peace and quiet in the stone house with a private spa. [www.tourisme-tarnetgaronne.fr/en/offers/le-secret-montpezat-de-quercy-en-4134180](http://www.tourisme-tarnetgaronne.fr/en/offers/le-secret-montpezat-de-quercy-en-4134180)

**Did you know?**

Natura Lodge is the very first business in the Gard area to be awarded the label! 56 species of bird have been found so far at the site [www.ardeche-detente.com/en](http://www.ardeche-detente.com/en)







With Toulouse and Montpellier as main cities, Occitanie occupies a large part of the southwest of France. It is very accessible by train, on the axis Paris, Bordeaux, Montpellier and Barcelona. Also accessible by numerous routes motorways and it benefits from air services national and international daily. More information on [visit-occitanie.com](http://visit-occitanie.com)



- UNESCO sites and buildings registered under the Way of St James of Compostela
- Way of St James of Compostela
- Great Sites of France
- Great Sites of Occitania
- Thermal Spas
- Ski resorts
- Sea resorts

