

# 2021

# Walking Tours in South West France

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**MY NAME IS PATRICK ARRIEULA. I was born in south-west France in a little village at the foot of the French Pyrénées in the Béarn region near the Spanish and Basque borders.**

Since 1996, my wife Robbie and I have escorted unique tours in the Pyrenees region and the south-west of France during spring and autumn. We would like to share with you our passion for this beautiful part of France. Our tours are based in the countryside, giving you the rare opportunity to meet the locals, taste the regional produce, admire the beautiful landscapes and experience the culture. The walking tours are suitable for all those who enjoy walking as well as the unique flavours of the traditional regional specialties. **During our tours we are based at the one hotel for the 9 days avoiding the inconvenience of repacking and changing hotels.** The small family-run hotels have been chosen for their comfort and authentic regional table. All the rooms offer private ensuite facilities and shops and banks are all within walking distance of the hotels. All singles will have their own room and facilities unless sharing with a friend. During the tours, participants have the choice of joining daily activities or relaxing in the village for the day. A coach and a driver will ensure a comfortable journey along the French country roads and enable us to drive to different destinations every day and admire spectacular scenery.

**Included in your trip:** Accommodation, breakfasts, lunches, dinners, and activities as stated in the brochure. Wine is included with all sit-down meals.

The tours are limited to a maximum of 20 and a minimum of 10 participants. Your booking will be secured upon payment of a deposit of \$400 AUD per person. See the back of the brochure for more details and your booking form.



## Testimonials

I had a fabulous time, your humour, knowledge of the area, love of people shown in a million small and large ways, your ability to keep the group moving into the next stage without having us feel rushed, have all made this a time for me to treasure. You are both amazing for your genuine interest of people and your ability to engage with the locals which brought so many extra fun moments. Well done Patrick & Robbie. P Blackwell

Patrick's knowledge & love of the area was a huge asset. Patrick's & Robbie's happy, positive, generous personalities contributed to the overall experience. What a privilege to be able to spend a day in your village meeting your family and joining in with the locals. M Baldwin.

A truly wonderful trip with variation on walks and visits to places of interest. Patrick's & Robbie's laid-back but very professional attitude, made the trip a memorable experience. Many thanks to you both for a great holiday. I & L Hanan



## Get-together in Bowral

A get-together for those booked on a tour will be held in Bowral on Sunday March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 for the May/June tours and on Sunday July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 for the Sept/Oct tours. An information booklet about your tour will be provided on the day.

## Attention walkers

**The walking tours are suitable for regular, experienced walkers.** The itineraries will vary and include mountain trails, country lanes and forest trails. The grades of the walks will range from easy to challenging, depending of your choice of itinerary. **The distance of the walks will vary from 5kms to 18kms and the ascents from 100m to 700m.** Both up and downhill training are important especially for the mountain itineraries.

We suggest that, for your greatest enjoyment and appreciation of the walking tours, you try to arrive in Europe a few days prior to the tour starting, so you will be rested beforehand.



## Private tours

All our tours can be organised for private groups of friends who like to share a special holiday together! We can design your itinerary to suit your individual group, combining walking food and culture. A minimum of 12 participants is required. Please give us a call for more information.

## "Pistoulet" Our place in France available for holiday rental

This 19<sup>th</sup> century country cottage is situated in the village of Lagor in the Béarn region. It is located within a stone's throw of the mountains, the sea, Spain and the Basque country - so much to do and discover! It has three bedrooms, will sleep six people very comfortably and offers a view of the Pyrénées.

## Photos of Pistoulet



## April / May 2021 Itinerary Dordogne/Périgord Region

Discover one of France's most scenic regions with its ancient traditions and its abundance of produce set in a landscape of winding rivers and mystical forests. The Bastide town of Monpazier, where you will be staying, is voted as one of France's most beautiful villages. This tour combines easier walking in undulating country with a gourmet experience of the regions delicacies! The longest walk on this tour is 12kms.

29<sup>th</sup> April – 7<sup>th</sup> May

Cost: \$4375 per person twin share.

Single supplement: \$900

### Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April:

Participants will be met at Bergerac railway station at 14.26. This is the arrival time of the TER 65616 from Bordeaux which connects with the TGV 8403 departing Paris Montparnasse at 10.47. Timetable will be confirmed a few months before the start of the tour. [Train tickets not included in package]. Participants will be met and taken to the hotel in Monpazier, approximately 40 minutes away. Those who are not using this pick-up service will make their own way to the hotel. We will meet for welcome drinks followed by dinner at the hotel.

### Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April:

Bus trip to St Cyprien for a 4 km walk to a truffle farm including a visit and lunch in a nearby restaurant. Free time in the afternoon in the village of Limeuil, voted one of France's most beautiful villages. Light dinner in a nearby restaurant.

### Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May:

We will start the 13km walk in Monpazier and walk to Lacapelle Biron. Picnic lunch. Dinner at the hotel.

### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May:

Bus trip to Issigeac for free time at the fabulous market, followed by a light lunch in Monflanquin. After lunch we will visit hazelnut and prune farms. This region is prized all over France for its hazelnuts and prunes! Dinner at the hotel.

### Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May:

Bus trip to Pomport for a 12km walk among the Bergerac & Monbazillac vineyards followed by a wine tasting. Picnic lunch. Dinner at the hotel.

### Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May:

Bus trip to Beyzac for a 7km walk to La Roque Gageac along the Dordogne river. In the afternoon we will visit Chateau Milandes and its gardens and learn the amazing story of Josephine Baker. Picnic lunch. Dinner at the hotel

### Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May:

Bus trip to Berbiguières for a 7km walk to a ferme auberge for lunch. Light dinner at a bar/deli.

### Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May:

Bus trip to Pechboutier for a cooking demonstration which includes a light lunch paired with wines. After lunch we will drive to Trémolat for a 7km walk with a panoramic view of the Dordogne river. Farewell dinner at the hotel.

### Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May:

The bus will take all participants to Bergerac railway station in the morning to catch the TER 65611 at 10.36 to connect in Bordeaux with TGV 8534 for Paris, Gare Montparnasse. This will be the only transport organised that day. Details will be confirmed a few months before the start of the tour.

## May 2021 Itinerary Cathare Region

Discover the Cathare region with its ancient castles perched on craggy mountain tops. Enjoy the amazing contrast in the landscapes and learn the history and legends along its ancient paths.

Walking tour: 20<sup>th</sup> May – 28<sup>th</sup> May

Cost: \$ 3640 per person twin share.

Single supplement: \$ 310



### Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May:

Participants will be met at Carcassonne railway station at 15.05. This is the arrival time of the TGV 9713 from Paris Gare de Lyon connecting with TGV 6823 from Narbonne to Carcassonne. Timetable to be confirmed a few months before the start of the tour. [Train tickets not included in package]. Participants will be taken to the hotel in Quillan, approximately one hour away. Those who are not using this pick-up service will make their own way to the hotel. We will meet for welcome drinks followed by dinner at the hotel.



#### Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May:

Bus trip to St Hilaire for an easy walk around the vineyards. Picnic lunch followed by free time in the St Hilaire Abbey where secrets were ‘stolen’ and history was made!! A wine tasting before making our way back to the hotel. Dinner at the hotel.

#### Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May:

Bus trip to Couiza for a 4.5 hour walk passing Rennes le Chateau where we will have a chance to have free time in the Chateau and discover its mythical secrets. Picnic lunch. Dinner at the hotel.

#### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May:

Bus trip to Nebias for a 3.5 hour walk via the Chateau Puivert with lunch en route. Light dinner in a nearby restaurant.

#### Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May:

The morning will start with free time to wander Alet Les Bains, where Nostradamus spent his childhood, before making our way to Mirepoix for its amazing market. We will have lunch and a game of pétanque! Dinner in a nearby Chateau.

#### Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May:

Bus trip to Cucugnan for a 3.5 hour walk to see Queribus, one of the most imposing of the Cathare castles, with amazing views. Picnic lunch. Free time to wander the village and possibly listen to a “sermon”!! Dinner at the hotel.

#### Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May:

Bus trip to Mazerolles for a 4 hour walk through wine and wheat country. Picnic lunch. Dinner at the hotel.

#### Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May:

Bus trip to Escouloubre for a 3 hour walk with lunch in a local gite. Dinner at the hotel

#### Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May:

The bus will take all participants to Carcassonne railway station in the morning to catch the IC 4756 at 10.39, to connect in Toulouse with TGV 8508 for Paris, Gare de Montparnasse. This will be the only transport organised on the day. Details will be confirmed a few months before the start of the tour.

## Sep / Oct 2021 Itinerary Midi Pyrénées Region

The Hautes Pyrenees region, known because of the Tour de France, has spectacular views, a national park abundant with rare fauna & flora and mountain villages overflowing with character, charm and history.

**Walking tour: Sep 23<sup>rd</sup> – Oct 1<sup>st</sup> Cost: \$4060 per person twin share.  
Single supplement: \$450**

#### Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September:

Participants will be met in Lannemezan railway station at 16.04. This is the arrival time of the TER 72708 from Tarbes which connects with the TGV 8572 departing Paris Montparnasse at 09.47. Timetable to be confirmed a few months before the start of the tour. [Train tickets not included in package]. Participants will be taken to the hotel in Arreau, approximately 30 minutes away. Those who are not using this pick-up service will make their own way to the hotel. We will meet for welcome drinks followed by dinner at the hotel.

#### Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September:

Bus trip to Gouaux for a 5 hour walk village to village, including a visit to a goat farm, and finish in Arreau. Picnic lunch. Dinner at the hotel.

#### Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September:

Bus trip to the Col D’Azet for a 4 hour walk starting between the Aure and Louron valleys following the trail down to St Lary. Light lunch at a local Auberge. Dinner at the hotel.

#### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September:

Start in Arreau for a 17km walk on the Santiago De Compostella trail to Lortet. Picnic lunch. Dinner at the hotel.

#### Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September:

Bus trip to Esparros to visit one of Europe’s most amazing abysses, followed by a visit to a working water mill still producing flour. Lunch will include a taste of the south, followed by a game of pétanque. Dinner in a nearby restaurant.

#### Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September:

Bus trip to the natural reserve of Néouvielle for a 4.5 hour walk around the lakes. Picnic lunch. Dinner at the hotel.

#### Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September:

Bus trip to Spain for a 5 hour walk in the Pineta Valley. Picnic lunch. Dinner at the hotel.

#### Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September:

Bus trip to the Louron Valley for a 5 hour walk to the refuge of Soula via the gorges of Clarabide. Picnic lunch. Dinner in a nearby restaurant.

#### Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October:

The bus will take all participants to Lannemezan railway station in the morning to catch the TER 72728 to Tarbes at 11.05 to connect in Toul TGV 8514 for Paris, Montparnasse. This will be the only transport organised that day. Details will be confirmed a few months before the start of the tour.

### Tour conditions

#### Included in your trip

All transport included in the tour itinerary, accommodation, breakfasts, lunches, dinners and activities as stated in the brochure. Menus will be organised by us to offer you a taste of the many specialties of the regional gastronomy. Wine is included with all sit-down meals but if the wines are not to your liking, you are free to purchase your own. The quantity of the wine served will be enough to accompany the meals.

#### Conditions for bookings and cancellations

Everyone participating in the tour must complete and sign a booking form and pay a **non-refundable** deposit of 400 Australian dollars per person. Your booking will be secured upon payment of the deposit. If you would like to join us on a tour you will need to forward the booking form and a recent photo to Pyrenees Tours, PO Box 469 Bowral NSW 2576 Australia. **Bank transfer, cheques or credit card payments are available. Credit cards surcharges apply: Visa - 1.8%, Amex - 2.8%** All participants must provide proof of travel insurance. **We strongly recommend that you purchase travel insurance as soon as you have paid any monies towards any of your travel arrangements. Make sure your travel insurance covers you against loss of deposit or final payment, in case of unavoidable cancellations.** A signed accident waiver and release of liability form which we will provide will need to be included with your doctor’s certificate stating you are fit and well to undertake a walking tour. The balance of the tour cost is due no less than 60 days before departure of the tour. Prices are based on cost and exchange of the Euro at the time of printing. We reserve the right to adjust the tour price should there be significant changes in the rates.



Due to our financial commitments to our various suppliers, your deposit will be forfeited if you cancel. Cancellations within 59 to 30 days before the start of the tour = 30% of tour price, less than 29 days, no refund will be given.

**Not included in your trip**

Tips, insurance (i.e. travel, health, loss or damage to personal property) phone calls, extra expenses which are not included in the itinerary.

**Tour cancellation**

Should it be necessary to cancel the tour, due to failure to reach minimum numbers, 40 days notice will be given and a full refund of the tour cost, if paid will be refunded.

**Our responsibility as tour organisers**

It is our responsibility to ensure that tour activities have been organised as stated in the program. It is also our right to alter the itinerary, if necessary, in the event of unforeseen circumstances. Any extra costs resulting from these alterations will not be our responsibility.

No responsibility will be accepted for any delays occurring during the tour. It is at our discretion to stop any persons from participating in any of the activities should they not have the required level of fitness on any particular day.

**Responsibility of tour participants**

It is the responsibility of the participant to organise and pay for all travel documents, i.e. passports, visas, tickets, insurance, departure tax. All participants need travel insurance. The participants will be responsible for any injury, sickness, loss, or damage that might occur.

If any participant wishes to alter the itinerary in any way, all resulting costs and organisation will be his/her responsibility. It is the responsibility of the participant to be at the point of pick-up as specified and at the time specified. If this is not possible it is the participant's responsibility to rejoin the tour at his/her own expense.

**Awareness**

Participants should be aware of the risks and dangers involved in walking activities such as weather extremes due to unexpected and sudden changes, rocky and uneven terrain on which the activities may take place, physical exertion and lack of immediate medical assistance due to remoteness of the activities. Participants will need adequate fitness to undertake the walking activities.

**Booking form (this form can be photocopied)**

**A photo and \$400 AUD deposit per person must be included with the booking form.**

Names.....

Address.....

Town..... State..... Postcode .....

Phone..... Mobile.....

Email.....

Single  Double  Twin share  Triple share  Name of the person/s you will be sharing with.....

Walking Tour  Private tour  Date of the tour: From.....To.....

I / we have read, accept and understand the booking conditions in the brochure and will provide proof of travel insurance and doctor's certificate with the final payment.

Signed.....Date..... Signed.....Date.....

**For more information**

<p style="text-align: center;">Patrick &amp; Robbie Arrieula Pyrenees Tours P.O. Box 469 Bowral NSW 2576 Australia Ph: +61 248625711 Email: <a href="mailto:pyrenees@acenet.com.au" style="color: white;">pyrenees@acenet.com.au</a> <a href="http://www.pyreneestours.com.au" style="color: white;">http://www.pyreneestours.com.au</a></p>	
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