

# Carte blanche

FOR A GREEN GETAWAY IN THE TARN





# Free to defy time

Deciding not to have to choose between the pull of nature and the lure of culture, tasting both the freshness of the Grésigne forest and the magnetism of the Sidobre rocks, being able to cross the ages to savour History while also anticipating future innovations, this is your journey through the Tarn: a destination offering freedom. The Lacaune Mountains and the Gaillac region, the Cocagne region and the Montagne Noire: in each place a unique way of life is expressed, nourished by the inspiring panoramas, generous gastronomy, abundant activities and omnipresent culture. The Tarn wants you to always feel good!

As warm as the people who live there, the Tarn allows travellers to experience the good life at a wine estate, to sit down unceremoniously at the table of the Michelin-starred chef Yannick Delpech, to colour their clothes and their dreams blue during a woad dyeing course in Lautrec. Authentic and natural, the Tarn invites its visitors to search under leaves the Gijou valley for mushrooms, to ride fearlessly on an all-terrain gyropod to the medieval citadel of Penne, to imagine they are French cycling champions Jalabert or Calmejane on sinuous country roads...

No one can say how long it will take to discover the thousand facets of the Tarn, because you can be sure that once you're there, time will stand still!



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# The high-lights



**ALBI,** UNESCO Episcopal City, St. Cécile Cathedral, the largest brick building in the world.



# **CORDES SUR CIEL,**800 years under

the skies.

# NOTRE-DAME DU BOURG,

Rabastens, UNESCO World Heritage Site Santiago de Compostela pilgrimage routes.

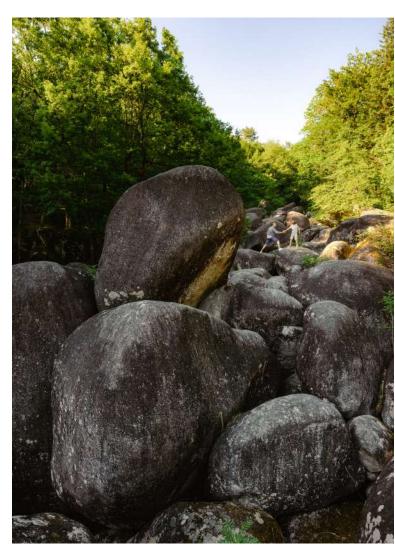




THE ABBEY-SCHOOL of Sorèze



**MAZAMET** hanging bridge



**LE SIDOBRE:** Europe's largest granite massif

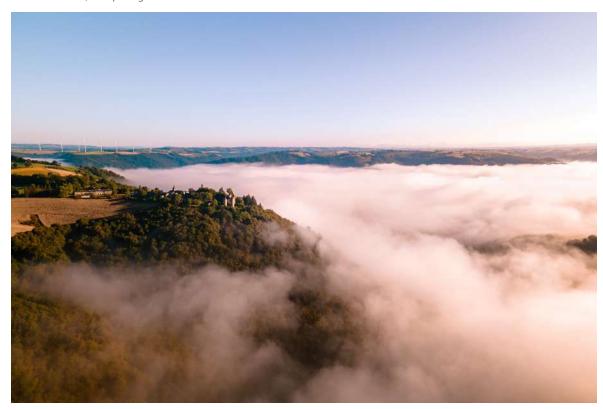


**CASTRES,** City of Art and History



**THE VOÛTE VAUBAN,** tunnel arch in Cammazes, UNESCO heritage site along the Rigole, a waterway between the Montagne Noire and the Canal du Midi.

SAINT-ANDRÉ, hilltop village





**AMBIALET,** Tarn Valley

# Go, run along the Tarn

Deep forests, welcoming greenways, picturesque villages: when you get close to the area you can take advantage of its many assets. There is not a moment to lose: walk, cycle, get active, experience this voyage of discovery to the full under the generous rays of the Tarn sun.





### NEW GR®736

# Cultural gems and forces of nature

Hiking on the GR®736 Gorges and Tarn Valley Trail

The shimmering ribbon of the river, the vertical gorges, greenery everywhere, the recently awarded GR®736 "Sentier des Gorges et Vallée du Tarn" winds its way over almost 300 kilometres in the heart of the most sumptuous landscapes of the Grands Causses and Cévennes Natural Parks. To enjoy these stunning views to the full, along with the Most Beautiful Villages in France that line the route, the proximity to the white water and the unique built heritage, you'll need almost 15 days of hiking, cycling, horseriding or canoeing. The last 40 kilometres finish in style: the Ambialet meander (the narrowest isthmus in Europe), the Tarn valley and, to end, the greenway and the listed buildings of the episcopal city of Albi: this is a route with a natural and cultural focus, even easier to follow from spring 2023 thanks to the publication of the dedicated FFR topoguide. Sentier des Gorges et Vallée du Tarn - GR®736 240 kilometres between Villefort and Albi www.valleedutarn-tourisme.com



Peyremeaux

# Devouring the land of the Montagne Noire

Trail route on the GR®7

### The balconies of the Vallée du Thoré

In the Haut-Languedoc Regional Nature Park, sunken paths wind through the wild landscapes of the Vallée du Thoré. Among them, on the GR®7 that crosses France from the Vosges to Andorra, there is a loop where nature takes all the limelight, in the shade of the Tarn forests. From Mazamet, beautiful climbs and dense vegetation occupy the hearts and minds of walkers who embark on this 2- to 4-day route that resembles a mountain trail with its open passageways and playful ridges. At an altitude of more than 1,200 metres, you'll enjoy the view of the Pyrenees from the Pic de Nore, watch out for the region's discreet wildlife, linger in the medieval village of Hautpoul, in short, live your best life in the heart of the Montagne Noire...

Trail route and discovery of the GR®7 - the balconies of the Vallée du Thoré - 100 kilometres from Mazamet In 2 or 4 days – fairly difficult level www.randonnee-tarn.com



# NEW VÉLOCCITANIE

# Pedalling between conifers and Rigole Véloccitanie cycle route

Adjacent to the Canal des Deux Mers à Vélo, and marked on the greenways and cycle routes that make it up, the Véloccitanie crosses 4 départements and links Béziers to Revel via the hilly landscapes of the Montagne Noire. You can pedal to the Cammazes breakthrough and the famous "Voûte Vauban" tunnel arch along the Rigole designed by Riquet, before finding numerous opportunities to stop in Castres or Mazamet. Over a few days or just a few hours, this is a countryside getaway with an Occitan flavour, where it is good to explore under the generous sun of the Tarn. La Véloccitanie – between Béziers and Revel 200 km – www.passapaisveloccitanie.fr

# **DIARY**THE URGENCY OF SLOWING DOWN: LAND ART ON THE PASSA PAÏS

Frescoes on the Passa Païs
On a former railway line,
the Passa Païs undulates peacefully through
landscapes of mountains, forests, moors
and garrigues. A path punctuated by
buildings and bridges, customised by the creative
work of 7 artists sensitive to environmental
challenges. This gentle route invites you to discover
these outdoor works!
Frescoes on the Passa Païs
Creation during artists' residency and on site, from January
to March, permanent exhibition.
www.parc-haut-languedoc.fr



Low carbon route among birds and castles in the Pays de Cocagne.



La Véloccitanie crossing southern Tarn by bike.

# One hike, four saints, many legends...

### La Capelette

### de Saint-Ferréol Hike in Dourgne

The plateaus overlooking the village of Dourgne are home to a melancholic chapel set amidst a landscape of dry grassland. The ascent to this monument is made with the myths and legends that populate this corner of the Montagne Noire in mind: from the impressive statue of Saint Stapin and the splendid 18th century arcades, one passes to the hypothetical traces of the knees of the hermit of the Saint-Ferréol plateau and to the rock that cures all ills... More prosaically, you can take advantage of the serenity of the Capelette plateau and of the spectacular panorama over the plain and the abbeys.

La Capelette de Saint-Ferréol Hike – 11 km – duration 3.5 hours Average level

# Go with the flow... of the Tarn

# Véloroute between Lescured'Albigeois and Trébas-les-Bains

The routes that make up Le Tarn à Vélo are suitable for those whose calves only moderately appreciate hills... Thus, the quiet route that links Lescure-d'Albigeois to Trébas over about forty kilometres is an opportunity for a ride that presents no difficulties, but is not without attractions, on a regular or electric bike. Sainte-Cécile Cathedral in Albi to start with, Lapérouse museum or Palais de la Berbie, then the spectacular Saut de Sabo in Saint-Juéry, the Romanesque priory of Ambialet or the water sports centre of Trébas-les-Bains: you can enjoy a variety of pleasures along a picturesque route, without ever losing sight of the Tarn! Véloroute Vallée du Tarn between Lescured'Albigeois and Trébas-les-Bains – 44 km easy level

www.albi-tourisme.fr



Sentier de la Capelette, in the footsteps of Dom Robert

# Following the wheels of legends

# La Calmejane

# and La Jalabert cycle routes

Who wants to compete with the biggest names in French cycling... in their own area? Laurent Jalabert and Lilian Calmejane are both from the Tarn region and have lent their names to two challenging routes: the Albigeoise, nicknamed "Le Calmejane", passes through Saint-Pierre-de-Trivisy, Lacaze and Lacaune-les-Bains in a 156 kilometre north-west, south-east diagonal, reserved for sports cyclists. As for the "Routes de Laurent Jalabert", they wind their way through the Montagne Noire and the Haut-Cabardès, via the Pic de Nore, Mazamet and Font Bruno, over nearly 80 kilometres, following a gradient worthy of the most stunning mountain stages of the Grande Boucle...

Two expert level cycling routes

- La Calmejane 156 km departs from Albi-École des Mines
- www.valleedutarn-tourisme.com
- La Jalabert 79 km departs from Mazamet

www.tourisme-castresmazamet.com







# In the birthplace of Gaillac wines

**Tasting workshops** 

### at the Maison des Vins de Gaillac

Learn the basics of wine tasting in the company of a professional oenologist, discover the aromatic richness of Gaillac wines and understand the mysterious influence of the autumn wind on great wines... this is part of the rich history of the Gaillac vineyards that is revealed during these workshops that are both insightful and delicious! In the stunning setting of the Maison des Vins de Gaillac, in the heart of the Saint-Michel Abbey where it all began, you will go from the banks of the nearby Tarn to the liquid depths of a range of AOC and IGP wines made from thousand-yearold and indigenous grape varieties (prunelard, loin de l'oeil, muscadelle, and more). During the summer season, the bar L'Ampélographe offers a tasting accompanied by aperitif boards with local flavours, to the sound of the various entertainments that enliven the monks' cobblestones.

Introduction to wine tasting workshop - all year round by reservation - duration 2 hours - price €30 / Pop-up bar L'Ampélographe - from 15/06 to 15/08 www.vins-gaillac.com



# NEW ŒNORANDOS® (WINE HIKES)

# Intoxicating hikes

### The Gaillac appellation cenorandos®

Hiking makes you thirsty... and that's why these well-named cenorandos® (wine-hikes) have everything to please! Starting from a winery, cellar or wine tourism centre, they take families and walkers through the hillsides and vineyards to discover the biodiversity, the local heritage and the winegrowers who work on these lands. The 2023 vintage honours the Gaillac appellation thanks to Domaine Duffau, Domaine Gayrard and Domaine du Moulin, where a passion for falconry goes hand in hand with that for wine.

Œnorandos® in the Gaillac appellation area - new routes - 8 km max - duration 2 hours approximately. www.tourismetarn.com

# DIARY THE GAILLAC AUTUMNAL PRIMEUR

### Chai mon Vigneron

from 16 to 20 November 2023

One the oldest vineyards in France, Gaillac is constantly renewing thanks to the energy of its 400 winegrowers: each year in November they celebrate the end of the harvest with contagious enthusiasm! Chai Mon Vigneron brings together villages, inhabitants and visitors in the region around various events, tastings, meals and festive concerts to celebrate the official release of the Gaillac primeur on the third Thursday of the month.

Chai mon Vigneron third weekend in November www.vins-gaillac.com



# all-terrain ride

# All-terrain gyropod all-terrain ride

Impressive notched wheels and a battery that allows for all sorts of routes: the all-terrain gyropod promises miles of silent riding in complete freedom! After a few minutes of getting to grips with the gyropod, set off to attack the medieval citadel of Penne. dominating the wilderness of the Grésigne forest, unless the attraction of the Domaine du Barry and its 33 hectares of vines is forgetting to stop and take a few photos. To end the experience, depending on your chosen route, you can enjoy a Gaillac wine or goat cheese tasting, to renew your adventurer's energy!

Accompanied tour on an all-terrain gyropod - medieval city of Penne or vineyard of Barry - with Mobilboard FROM 12 years old

Duration 1 hour Price from €30 www.mobilboard.com

# Splendours to drink and to see

# Electric bike ride from Cordes sur Ciel to the Gayrard estate

Hypnotic ochre stones in the middle of a sea of clouds... The charm of the Cordes sur Ciel sculpted façades is immediately apparent as you wind your way up the narrow streets of this medieval town on your electric bike. You can ride through the village with ease at your own pace, between the Gothic gems and secret corners, before heading for the Gayrard estate, a biodynamic winegrowing operation. Here, the limestone plateau, the land planted with oak trees and the signposted route through the vineyards reveal the secrets of a centuries-old alchemy between man and his "terroir". The return journey through the Gaillac countryside takes you past picturesque villages, with your head full of memories and breathtaking landscapes...

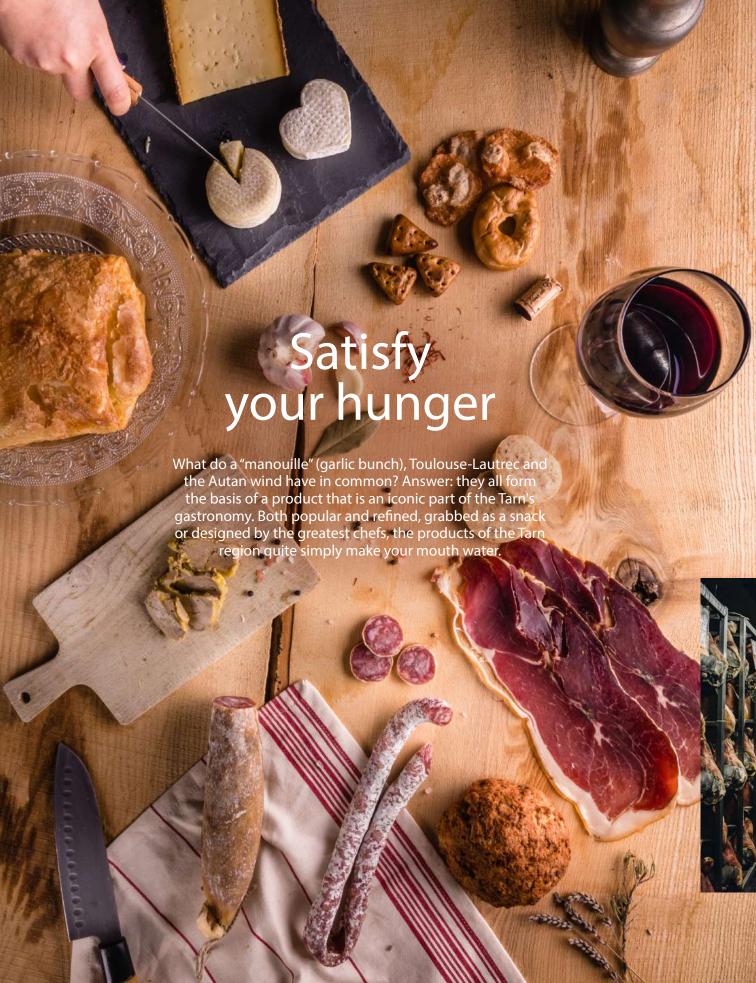
Electric bike ride from Cordes sur Ciel to the Gayrard estate with Stations Bee's - 60 km - Electric bike rental €50 / day www.experiencevelo.stationsbees.com

# SUMMER CELEBRATIONS IN GAILLAC

Fête des Vins de Gaillac 4-6 August 2023

Whispering fountains, welcoming alleys and flowerbeds: along the course of the Tarn, the Foucaud park offers the shade of its hundred-year-old trees to the Gaillac Wine Festival every year in August. Aperitifconcert, entertainment and tastings are on the programme for this summer event. Fête des Vins de Gaillac the first weekend of August www.vins-gaillac.com







# Garlic, garlic and more garlic

On the Sentier de l'Ail around Lautrec

Pretty pink cloves that enhance any dish: the identity of the Tarn is embodied in the fragrance of the Pink Garlic of Lautrec (Protected Geographical Indication). To help it grow and flourish, you need the strength and character of the hilly landscapes surrounding Lautrec, with "Most Beautiful Village in France" status, to be discovered during a nature and heritage walk. These eight kilometres will take food lovers among 12th century architecture, ramparts and a fortified gate, half-timbered houses, the collegiate church of Saint-Rémy and viewpoints over the hills. Then the smell of garlic will attract walkers to the producers' farms equipped with their traditional drying rooms. To fill your bag with this jewel of gastronomy, head for the La Lautrecoise shop, where pink garlic can be found alongside Label Rouge black garlic, its mature counterpart!

Hike on the Sentier de l'Ail – 8 km – duration 2 hours

### DIARY SOIRÉE CONVIVI'AIL IN LAUTREC

Lautrec Pink Garlic Festival 5–6 August 2023

Where else can you see a garlic bunching contest or the competition for the biggest bunch of garlic? At the Lautrec Pink Garlic Festival! Pink garlic pie, soup and other delicious culinary specialities are in the spotlight, but not only that: hikes, dances, concerts and a thousand other festive ideas await the curious, not forgetting the traditional market for local products and crafts. Great garlic!

Fête de l'Ail Rose de Lautrec 5–6 August 2023



# A salty history

# Lacaune PGI salt meats

On the first floor of the traditional houses in Lacaune, the adjustable wooden shutters allow the winds to pass through, creating the unique conditions for the drying of Lacaune IGP salt meats. The hot and dry Autan wind, the humidity of the Cévennes and the influence of the mountain climate each have a part to play in the alchemy that creates the "best salted meats of all time". Sceptical? The best thing to do is to go there, in the heart of the Haut-Languedoc Regional Nature Park, to a village where passionate craftsmen have been continuing the unique local expertise for generations. And enjoy an urban stop to taste "bougnettes", a tasty fried sausage ball, or "melsat", a traditional white pudding, there is no better place than the Millas charcuterie bar in Albi.

- Salaisons de Lacaune IGP www.salaisons-lacaune.fr
- Taste the Salaisons de Lacaune IGP at the Millas charcuterie bar in Albi and Moulin-Mage
   www.charcuterie-millas.fr



# Oberti production workshop and museum in Lacaune

Hams, sausages and salami line the walls of the corridor specially designed to immerse visitors in the production of the products for which Oberti is famous: traditional recipes and selected ingredients develop as they are slowly matured in the curing room. The tour also includes a visit to the impressive ham drying room, an overview of the techniques and machines used in the past, plus an unmissable tasting session to end this gourmet journey through the land of quality pork products! Tour of Oberti in Lacaune - self-guided tour with audioquide - duration 1 hour - price €4 / free for under 10s - guided tour by reservation Price €6 / free for under 10s www.oberti.fr

# **Sweet Castres**

### Castres nougatine from Signovert

Sugar, almonds, eggs... and the magic of a recipe invented more than a century ago: these are the ingredients in Castres nougatine, delicious in its simplicity and traditional consistency. Indeed, on their Sidobre marble lathe, four generations have made the iconic sweet treat, always on the same site in Castres, using a well-kept secret passed down from father to son. To enjoy a piece of tradition, head for the Signovert Patisserie, in the Rue Zola... where it's always been!

Castres nougatine from the Signovert patisserie www.tourisme-castresmazamet.com

### NFWS 2023

# One century and 3 years of the "Charlot" biscuit

# 103 years of "échaudés" Charlot biscuits from the Deymier biscuit factory in Carmaux

Handmade, patiently dried on a grid, then poached in hot water and finally baked in the oven: each "échaudé" biscuit is unique and can be eaten at any time of the day with a coffee... or a salad! Indeed, the particularity of this surprising aniseed-flavoured biscuit is that it does not contain any sugar or fat, and this has been the case since its medieval origins. Patented by Charles Deymier under the name "Charlot" in 1920, this longlasting dry cake became a staple for the Carmaux miners and then in local gourmet culture. Head to the Deymier biscuit makers to visit the workshop... and take a bite of the Charlot!

Biscuiterie Deymier in Carmaux www.saveursdutarn.fr

# Michelin stars at home

# Michelin star table d'hôtes by Yannick Delpech

How about eating at the table of a 2-Michelin star chef... at his home? This is the generous concept proposed by Yannick Delpech, who cooks seasonal products from his region in his beautiful 19th-century building in Gaillac. Twelve lucky guests meet for an intimate and enjoyable gastronomic evening, around a unique menu designed and served by the chef. Simplicity and indulgence

pervade the atmosphere of this private and very exclusive table d'hôte. It's best to keep your phone to hand: the address of the dinner is sent by SMS only two hours beforehand!

Cuisine Sans Dépendance - Yannick Delpech's table d'hôtes - Wednesday to Saturday, lunch and dinner - price from €45 for lunch / €70 for dinner.

www. cuisines ans dependance. fr



# Down-to-earth cuisine

### Restaurant Le Lautrec in Albi

Old Albi has never let the memory of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec fade away, and it even fills the plates of the restaurant located opposite the house where the poster artist from Albi was born. The chef Sandrine Caramelli serves traditional Tarn cuisine at the Lautrec, including cassoulet with cod and Lautrec garlic, veal steak from Ségala and salad with "melsat" (charcuterie). As a nod to her illustrious neighbour, she also includes on the menu some of the original recipes from Toulouse-Lautrec's cooking notebook, partly written by the painter himself: tartouillat (tartlets) and chicken with almonds or mesturets (pumpkin cakes), which bring an irresistible gourmet touch to the restaurant's menu!

Restaurant Le Lautrec

Set menus from €34

www.restaurant-le-lautrec.com

# Bringing a crunch to the Tarn

# Cordes sur Ciel "Croquants"

Their appetising crackly shape conceals centuries of history linked to the cultivation of almond trees, which was widespread in the region in the 17th century... These "croquants" biscuits from Cordes are enjoyed during coffee breaks and are made using the traditional recipe at the Manufacture Gourmande de Cordes sur Ciel.

# **DIARY**Tous Tarnivores

The must-go local food festival is here: in early June, the Place du Vigan in Albi is transformed into the Saveurs du Tarn market. Winegrower foodtrucks, the Logis du Tarn open kitchen, a producers' market and big gourmet tables, toques and straw hats: all in the spirit of the Tarn's toupiner (tasting). 9 and 10 June, Place du Vigan, Albi. www.saveursdutarn.fr





# You won't be bored

# Cagnac-les-Mines

Coal mining in the Carmausin basin dates back to the 12th century and continued until 1997: the extraction of coal has shaped landscapes and lifestyles, as in the case of the nearby "Grande Découverte", an excavation more than 300 metres deep which today is home to a leisure area. Helmet on, you'll take your place in the lift where the exploration of the completely refurbished museum begins, to experience the daily life of the miners. Modern and equipped with the latest technology, the Cagnac mine-museum pays a heartfelt tribute to mining history: the galleries, tools, working conditions, the immersion is educational and complete, offering visitors a "mine of sensations"! Musée-Mine in Cagnac-les-Mines Reopening 21 April 2023 www.musees.tarn.fr

# A journey through eight centuries of mining

Starting from Albi, a pleasant tenkilometre walk from Carmaux via some of the sites that bear witness to the Tarn's mining adventures is possible on the new greenway called "Le Chemin des Mineurs" (the miners' path), which can be walked or cycled. It follows part of the old railway line leading to the mine and allows you to find out more about the history of coal mining at five stations with commentary panels. As for those who are looking for adventure, the orienteering courses that awaits you at the start of Cap'Découverte provide both physical activity and cerebral exercise: finding your bearings with the help of natural and artificial elements, solving the riddles, then finding the markers, this is a treasure hunt that will make you think...!

- Voie Verte Le Chemin des Mineurs d'Albi in Carmaux – around 13 km – duration 3 hrs www.tourisme-tarn-carmaux.fr
- Cap'Découverte Orienteering course 12 circuits of varying difficulty open access www.tourisme-tarn.com

# Contemplate 800 years of history from the top of this bastide

Porte des Ormeaux work-training site at Cordes-sur-Ciel

www.la-toscane-occitane.com

1222 was the birth date of Cordes-sur-Ciel, a real heritage gem and a history book engraved in stone. Raymond VII, Count of Toulouse, founded his city on a rocky spur offering a stunning view over the region. To celebrate the 800 anniversary of its founding, the village, now one of France's favourites, has launched a restoration project at the Porte des Ormeaux, which has historical monument status. The workers use tools, lifting equipment and scaffolding similar to those used to build the medieval bastide: a treadwheel crane, entertainment in period costume and a stonemason's workshop delight visitors, almost as much as the view of the imposing limestone and schist gate. Porte des Ormeaux work-training site

# The castle that defies time

### The Penne Fortress medieval castle

It is difficult to distinguish the work of nature from that of the builders who, in the 12th century, constructed this incredible fortress which overlooks Penne, the Aveyron gorges and the Grésigne forest. The medieval citadel, which is closely linked to its rocky outcrop, was the focus of bloody wars during the time of the Cathar heresies. It is currently undergoing a breathtaking restoration project using period techniques. The chapel is once again accessible to the public, a museum is being planned, and on the site, a continuous stream of craftsmen from all over the region is working to restore the stronghold to its former glory. A masterpiece of medieval architecture, Penne reveals some of its mysteries through an illustrated interpretation trail that will fascinate young and old alike.

Forteresse de Penne with medieval work site Price varies depending on the season – from €5 www.chateau-penne.com



# An encounter with a ghost-like castle

# A walk around the Château de Grandval

The melancholic ruins reflected in the still waters create a phantasmagorical picture, evoking architectural poetry and nature taking back control. The history of the Château de Grandval is a cruel tale: built in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, it was first destroyed, then magnificently rebuilt in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, before being burnt down during the Second World War, looted and reduced to ruins. Submerged by the waters of the Razisse dam in the 1950s, it is now the highlight of a serene and contemplative walk in the heart of a green valley. Unusual walk to explore the Château de Grandval

www.tourisme-tarn.com





# A view from the depths of time

# The Occitania statue-menhirs road

The megaliths have size and age. The statues have expressiveness and mystery. The statue-menhirs of Occitania are still deeply enigmatic and the eyes engraved in the granite have silently observed the passage of five millennia of history. The route dedicated to them stretches east of the Tarn through the spectacular landscapes of the Sidobre massif and the Lacaune mountains, passing through the Murat interpretation centre and the evocative "Sentier des Immortels". Immutably mute, the stone effigies stand waiting for the intrepid explorer who is seeking to extract some of their secrets...

 $\label{thm:cond} The \ Occitania \ statue-menhirs \ road - www.statues-menhirs-occitanie.$  com

# 2CV tours in Cathar country

### Visit Albi by 2CV

The Cathar period left the city of Albi with some of its most beautiful stone monuments: the impressive fortified cathedral of Sainte-Cécile, the Berbie Palace and the Pont Vieux (Old Bridge) are all monuments that have forged the identity of the Episcopal city. In order to make your way through its medieval streets and enjoy an exclusive visit, you can take a seat in the cherry-red vehicle belonging to Marc, who is passionate about old machines... and heritage! The little jalopy takes its passengers on a tour of the city with its roof wide open so that they can enjoy the breathtaking view without getting tired! Panoramic visit of Albi in 2CV with Le Tacot Cathare - duration 1 hour 15 - price from €26 www.letacotcathare.fr



### NEW

# Back to the seventies

### Chambre d'hôte and escape game in Nages

The Fées du Lac campsite is celebrating their 50th anniversary and a unique view of the Laouzas lake in 2023. To mark the occasion, they are inviting visitors to a pop and psychedelic journey, to the 1970s! In a room with a hippie atmosphere, the furnishings and colours are in keeping with the joyful style of the era. A little extra surprise: if they solve the riddle before midnight, the occupants of the room will receive a mysterious reward... No question of falling asleep too soon, vinyl records and brainstorming are on the agenda!

Chambre d'hôte and "seventies" escape game at the Camping des Fées du lac – www.lesfeesdulac.com

# **DIARY**AN ELEGANT WARDROBE

7th Ugly Sweater World Championship
Christmas jumpers, turtle-neck jumpers, psychedelic
patterns: thanks to Albi Vintage, they meet every year for an
international competition that is both crazy and merciless.
In Albi, during the Ugly Sweater World Championship,
wardrobe treasures set the catwalk ablaze.
Ugly Sweater World Championship organised by Albi Vintage December 2023 in Albi
www.albi-vintage.fr

# A Sixties tour in Occitan Tuscany

### Guided tour on a vintage moped

The two syllables of the word "Solex" irresistibly draw travellers into a delightfully old-fashioned epic: guided by the handlebars of this vintage machine, you will criss-cross the landscapes of the Vère valley between the Gaillac vineyards and rocky plateaux. One pedal stroke and Puycelsi, one of France's Most Beautiful Villages, appears on the horizon, emerging from the greenery. Thanks to the guide's commentary, not a single detail of the history of this beautiful bastide is left out, with its ancient past, religious wars and courageously-repelled invaders. Then comes the moment to cross the forest of Grésigne, the largest in the Midi-Pyrénées, made up of chestnut trees and majestic oaks. The last acceleration is towards the Château de Terride and its Tuscany postcard-like appearance... Guided tour on an old moped with Vintage Cyclomoteurs 81 - 2 hr discovery tour - price €30 www.la-toscane-occitane.com





# **DIARY**Gabare boat aperitif

From May to September, embark on board the gabares, the traditional flat-bottomed boats used in the past to transport Gaillac wine, for an aperitif along the Tarn. An oenological trip where you can calmly discover the biodiversity and finish with a breathtaking view of the Episcopal city of Albi from the river in the golden reflections of the sunset.



# In the fortress of the woods

### Puycelsi

Eight hundred metres of ramparts still mark the perimeter of Puycelsi, founded in the 10th century and fortified by the Counts of Toulouse two centuries later. Several times besieged, the town resisted and was never taken by force. The reasons for this tenacity can be understood when you see the protected path: on its rocky plateau, the village seems to emerge as if by magic from the surrounding forest of Grésigne, giving it its nickname of "fortress of the woods". You can enjoy an exceptional panorama of the surrounding countryside, while strolling among the 14th and 15th century half-timbered houses. The winding streets and the astonishing Sainte-Corneille church, with its blue ceiling decorated with acanthus leaves, complete this historical walk. In front of the sculpture representing a pig, smile while remembering the legend of the good trick played on the English here in 1386...

A walk in Puycelsi www.tourisme-tarn.com

# A gem inherited from the Middle Ages

### Castenau-de-Montmiral

On an oppidum surrounded by the Grésigne forest, in the heart of the Gaillac vineyards, an Albigensian bastide founded by Raymond VII of Toulouse dominates the Tarn valley. Classified as one of the Most Beautiful Villages in France, Castelnaude-Montmiral looks like a fortress with its houses pressed against each other, marking the edge of a charming pedestrian square decorated with arcades, a real haven of peace with a medieval feel. Offering its visitors spectacular views from its heights, in its church the Tarn bastide conceals a stunning13th century treasure: the cross-reliquary of the Counts of Armagnac, decorated with 310 precious stones...

A walk in Castelnau-de-Montmiral www.tourisme-tarn.com





# Cypresses in the Occitan light

In the mildness of the afternoon, you can walk through the most beautiful villages and bastides along the heritage trail (Puycelsi, 12 km) or the trail of the castles and vineyards (17 km) which winds through vineyards, groves, moors and valleys. It is an opportunity to learn about the specificities of this land, which is influenced by the Mediterranean and the ocean and dried out by the Autan wind. From the hillsides, let your eyes move between the vast forest of Grésigne and the Tarn valley. On the horizon, typical Gaillacois dovecotes stand, as well as farmhouses and vineyards often accompanied by umbrella pines or cypresses. As the sun sets over the landscape, it is time to settle down on a small terrace where the stones remain warm until nightfall.

www.la-toscane-occitane.com/balades-nature-notre-top-3/



# A great family affair

Nothing could be simpler than rediscovering one's childlike soul while travelling through the various areas of the Tarn, as there is no question of being bored for a second. Stimulate your brain with your family, expend energy without counting the cost, take advantage of the preserved natural setting and experience intense emotions, everywhere you go you'll find

# Family adventures around the lake

### Koh Ferréol Adventure Game

On the banks of the lake of Saint-Ferréol, intrepid adventurers can test their skill, logic and physical abilities. Inspired by the TV game show, Koh Ferréol is a fun family day that allows you to discover Saint-Ferréol as a team, in complete freedom and without getting bored, thanks to the instructions in the "special bag"!

Koh Ferréol Adventure Game
€20 for 4 adventurers

Revel Tourist Office

www.auxsourcesducanaldumidi.com

# Entertaining your wild child

Discovery trail In the footsteps

### of the Wild Child in Lacaune

Exploring, climbing, running and jumping: everything to make children happy when left to their own devices can be found in the Bassine wood. The playful trail, with its many activities, allows young adventurers to leave their parents behind for a while and work off their energy in complete freedom, like an echo of the story of "Victor", the supposedly "wild" child, discovered in 1798 in this place. In the midst of trees, rocks and moss, cultivate your instincts and joyfully free yourself from the veneer of civilisation...

Fun trail In the footsteps of the wild child in Lacaune 3.5 km - visit booklet available

www.tourismemontsetlacsenhautlanguedoc.com

at the Tourist Office



NEW FOR 2023

# FRANCE'S 1ST ESCAPE GAME IN A CHURCH

# A countdown ritual

In front of the garden of the Mail de Castres, the sculpted façade of the building gives no indication of what is going on inside. Because although it looks like a church, although its portal and vaults seem to be those of a religious building, it is actually a very secular experience inside. The only escape game in France located in a former church, Escape The Game has three rooms with elaborate atmospheres and three levels of difficulty. Reflection, manipulation and enigmas: it is better to have said your prayers before entering this unusual place...

Escape game in a former church – 3 rooms

2 to 8 people – Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday, 10am to 10pm and Friday-Saturday-Sunday, 10am to midnight – from €32 – www.escapethegame.fr

# Going underground and back in time

### Castela Underground

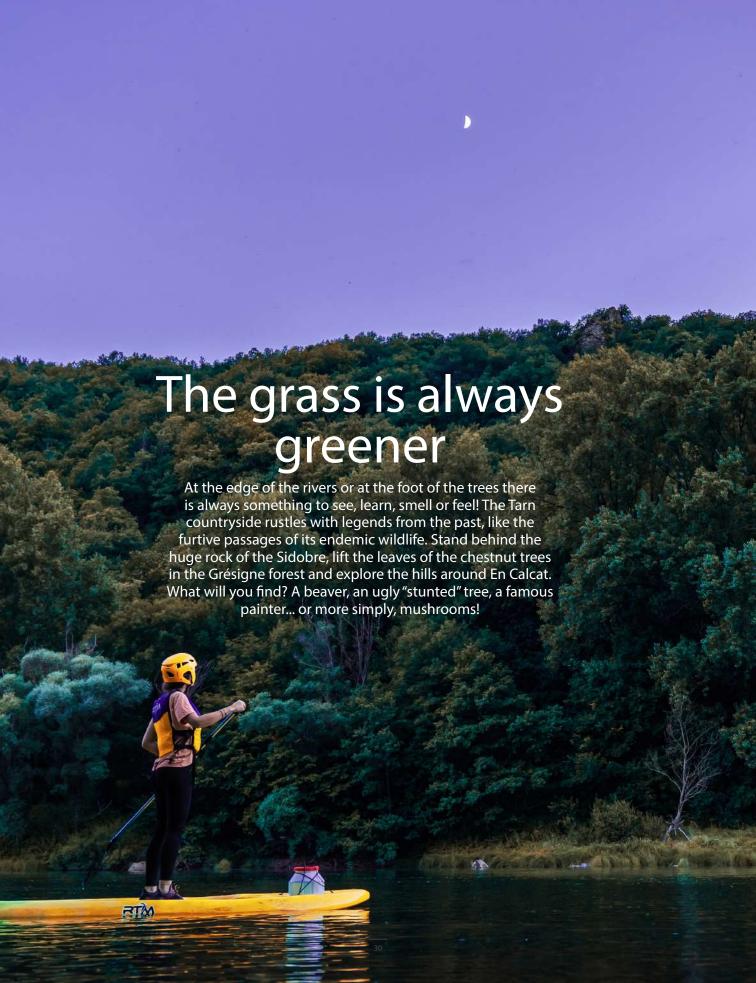
142 metres of galleries made up of vaults and tunnels of perfect regularity, fitted out with living rooms and silos, lamp niches and water points... entirely dug out with iron picks in the Middle Ages, you have to see it to believe it! Located under the ruins of the Château de Sicard Alaman, Castela underground is a moving testimony to the troubled times that the region was going through at the time, forcing the inhabitants to take refuge there to escape the brigands. It became a warehouse, then was used to manufacture gunpowder, and is the largest tunnel in the Tarn. As



well as its astonishing history, the curious (and clever) visitor may well discover the treasure of Jeanne la Faussaire, dating from the 15th century but never found, so it's best to keep your eyes peeled...

Souterrain du Castela - visits from Tuesday to Sunday during school holidays, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday outside school holidays price €4.

www.tourisme-tarnagout.com



# Sunset over the beavers

Night paddling on the trail of the beavers of Trébas Flat scaly tails, a clumsy appearance and webbed feet: the European beaver has made a successful return to the banks of the Tarn. Europe's largest rodent is discreet, but its presence can be perceived through its impact on the poplars here and there, allowing the curious walker to admire its lumberjack skills and solid incisors. To meet this friendly woodcutter, you can take a seat on a paddle and row silently... but not just at any time! A nocturnal animal, the beaver moves around at night and it takes the 7 kilometres of this peaceful descent of the waters of the Tarn to have the chance to see it in the moonlight and in the light of the explanations of the naturalist guide. And if the beavers opt for an early night's sleep, you can still enjoy the spectacle of the birds and other wildlife on the banks, under the changing colours of the Tarn sky. An unforgettable trip! Paddle boarding by moonlight from the Trébas leisure base 7 km of descent - easy level duration around 3 hours - July and August, departures Thursdays at 7:30pm - €35. www.valleedutarn-tourisme.com/ www.tourisme-tarn.com



# Legends carved in the rock

A moonlit storytelling walk in the Sidobre

A goose frozen in stone for eternity, stunted trees that haunt the night in the Tarn forest, rocks thrown by giants one angry evening... the legends of Sidobre, a unique geological exception in Europe, come to life in the moonlight to amaze young and old. Bérengère, a native of the region, fortunately knows all the tricks used by the creatures that hide behind the immense blocks of granite. She guides her guests for the evening through the sunken paths, lulling them with tales and fantastical stories. Walking shoes, a torch and a child-like mind are recommended for the nocturnal adventure on this trail of wonders.

A moonlit storytelling walk in the Sidobre Every Thursday in July and August at 9pm - duration 2.5 hours Adult price €10 / child €8 / free for the under-7s www.tourisme-tarn.com



# Ovni Gastronomique, a homage to plants

Villa Pinewood in Payrin-Augmontel With their wine bar in Toulouse, they won some of the best prizes for oenological excellence, before returning to the Montagne Noire to experiment with a unique concept of oeno-gastronomic table d'hôtes. At Anne and Thomas' place, twelve guests sit around the family table before setting off on a culinary journey of many flavours, discovering the Causses and the Tarn region, well served by a range of inspired local producers, in an ultra-short circuit. Ikejime char from the waters of the Tarn, pepper from the Pierre Fabre botanical conservatory, honey from the Montagne Noire, and flowers freshly picked by Josette, are accompanied by more than 1,500 wines from France and all over the world. This extraordinary Pinewood Villa, awarded two toques by Gault & Millau, has also won the 2023 "Tables to Explore" award from the prestigious World's Top 1000 Restaurants list.

Œno-gourmet table d'hôtes at Villa Pinewood – menu from €89 www.villapinewood.com The Bardes stream meanders through an exceptionally fresh and sensitive natural site, then makes a jump of more than 80 metres in three stages, in the middle of a mass of rocks where you feel very small... From the ruins of the 13th century castle overlooking the site, there is nothing better than to walk through this fragile biotope following the waterfall path, which is a pleasant loop with some steep passages, as well as some woody stops in the heart of a forest with mossy trees and monumental ferns. You can admire the view of the Château de la Roque, enjoy the long suspended footbridge that crosses the stream, watch for the furtive passage of a dipper or a wagtail, and let time fly by in this haven of greenery...

Arifat waterfalls path - 2.3 km, depart from the château car park – duration 1.5 hours approx. - average level www.tourisme-tarn.com



# Find happiness under the leaves

Mushroom picking and a cooking trip in the Sidobre

Cap, stem, colour, smell, season... it's best to take the time to understand all the environmental data so as not to make mistakes about mushrooms. That is why this quiet and insightful course is the key to correct identification and appropriate cooking. Two or three days of guided mushroom picking and cooking workshops allow you to acquire the basics, with the added pleasure of quiet and comfortable accommodation in this house on the river. The river Gijou is considered to be one of the cleanest in France and flows through the village of Vabre, the starting point for many beautiful mushroom walks in the Sidobre.

Nature & Mushrooms Stay at La Maison sur la Rivière - 3 days / 2 nights from €191 per person https://sidobre-vallees-tourisme.com

# When the Montagne Noire becomes an inspiration

Dom Robert Museum and Trail at Sorèze A short visit to the Dom Robert Museum in Sorèze sets the tone: peacocks in a myriad of colours, ponies with bright manes, sheep and leaping antelopes... sources of inspiration for designer Dom Robert, retrace the his life of wonder in the face of nature. It was while surveying the land around En Calcat in the 1960s that the Benedictine monk found renewed inspiration, exploring the surrounding countryside in all seasons. A thirteen-kilometre loop allows you to follow in his footsteps, marked out by eleven numbered panels detailing the close relationship between nature and Dom Robert's work. Through plains, moors, pastures and wooded areas, you can understand a little of what so captivated the artist... without ever straying too far from the sound of the monastery bells!

Path in the footsteps of Dom Robert - 13 km from Dourgne to Massaguel - duration about 4 hours www.domrobert.com

# Following the Camino de Santiago north and south of the Tarn

Conques-Toulouse on the way to Le Puy:

From Conques, follow the GR36 for a Tarn route among nature and the most beautiful villages. After crossing the Viaur valley, you will see Cordes sur Ciel, Monestiès, Gaillac and Rabastens.

The Arles Way: from Murat-sur-Vèbre to Sorèze.

The Tarn route of the Arles Way goes past the menhir statues up to the foothills of the Montagne Noire. It passes through Castres, the Venice of the Tarn, Dourgne and the town of Sorèze to end at the source of the Canal du Midi. www.chemins-compostelle.com



# Low carbon

Follow the Occitanie Rail Tour:

slow-motion adventures in Occitania using the LiO train lines. www.tourisme-occitanie.com

Then link up with gems in the Tarn on the greenways: the Chemin des Mineurs (Miners' Path, Albi/Carmaux), the Chemin des Droits de l'Homme (Human Rights Path, Albi/Castres), the Voie Gijounet-Lacaune (Gijounet-Lacaune path) and the Veloccitanie in the south of the department.





### DIARY

Images/Imaginaires: Tolkien at Dom Robert

The Musée Dom Robert Cité de Sorèze presents a journey through the illustrated book from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. From the sacred book to the illustrated book supporting teaching with La Fontaine, to Jules Vernes' illustrated adventure and Robinson Crusoe, the museum will plunges you into an imaginary world. The highlight of the exhibition will be the two contemporary tapestries created by the Cité de la Tapisserie d'Aubusson based on Tolkien's watercolours. Images/Imaginaires, from 18 May to 8 October, Musée Dom Robert / Cité de Sorèze.

# THE REOPENING OF THE MUSÉE GOYA

# Me gusta el Museo

The largest collection of Spanish art in France outside the Louvre

The only one of its kind in France, the Gova Museum in Castres is finally reopening its doors to the public after lengthy renovation work. Housed in the former episcopal palace designed by Jules Hardouin-Mansart in the 17th century, it houses exceptional collections devoted to Francisco Goya and Hispanic art. Velázquez, Miro and Dali are among the great Spanish masters on display, providing an insight into Iberian artistic creation from Antiquity to the present day through 560 works, presented in an enlarged, modernised and redesigned setting. It has become the largest museum of Hispanic Art in France after the Louvre. Musée Goya de Castres - Opening spring 2023 www. ville-castres.fr



# Toulouse-Lautrec revolutionises the palace

Musée Toulouse-Lautrec

at the Palais de la Berbie in Albi

In a twist of history, the palace of the bishops of Albi is now home to the world's largest collection of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec's works, comprising over a thousand drawings, paintings and posters. A fascination for the circus, a passion for horses, an admiration for free women and sometimes prostitutes, subversive caricatures and the pleasure of representing parties in Montmartre or the Moulin Rouge... the rich and varied journey of the museum illustrates the protean talent and genius of the artist. The walls of the Palais de la Berbie, a listed historic monument and UNESCO World Heritage Site, also house a section devoted to the history of the Episcopal city. An unmissable Albigensian visit. In summer, the walls of the Palace come alive with a light mapping of the life of Lautrec.

Toulouse-Lautrec Museum at the Palais de la Berbie - full price €10 / reduced price €5 / free for under 17s - dates and opening times to be found on www. musee-toulouse-lautrec.com

### NEW

# Corsetry course

### Corsetry workshop in Castres

Colourful, decorated with feathers, laces, pearls, laces, the elegant highlighting of the waist and the bust is what they all have in common. After the big fashion week shows, the corsets and waistbands imagined by Marie-Jeanne equip women and men for special occasions... or everyday life. Entirely handmade with quality materials, these unique pieces, both delicate and robust, reveal some of their secrets during a workshop led by the designer herself. Making a customised pattern, fitting the stays and eyelets, choosing a suitable fabric... each participant can then leave with his or her ultra-customised corset, and impress the gallery!

Corsetry course with Marie-Jeanne Beaujouan 5 days - 9:30am-12pm and 2pm-6pm - €490 - next workshop from 24/04 to 28/04

www.corset-mariejeannebeaujouan.com



# Atelier Missegle in Burlats

In the 1980s, Myriam brought one of the first herds of Angora goats in France to Missegle. With Living Heritage Company status, the workshop is now celebrating 4 decades of creation and produces the softest and strongest socks in the world: reinforced with polyamide and used by the military for their clothing, the socks are indestructible! The Tarn-based company passionately defends its craft expertise that is passed on from experienced workers to young recruits for its hats, scarves, jumpers, etc. Carefully selecting the most environmentally-friendly natural fibres and considering animal welfare, it also implements modern techniques such as 3D knitting, which, by making a jumper in one piece, limits waste and brings knitting into the era of ecodesign. Respect.

Visit the Missegle workshop - July-August Tuesday and Thursday at 11am and 2.30pm - September-June Thursday at 2.30pm - duration 1 hour - adult rate €5 / child €3 / free for under 6s - www. missegle.com



### 2023 ANNIVERSARY

# Journey to the land of shapes and colours

Les Poteries d'Albi

Albi's Potteries bring the dolce vita of Albi into homes and gardens and onto balconies! The clay is extracted, pressed, shaped and fired with respect, for quality pottery that has meaning. The last company to glaze its creations by hand using ancestral methods, and with the Entreprise du Patrimoine Vivant (Living Heritage Company) label, the Potteries are in the hands of Lore Camillo, the last generation of founders. Transmission, a society- and environment-based approach, product excellence: on all fronts of craftsmanship and expertise, the company is an example of commitment and success. To celebrate 130 years of working with the region's red clay, the Poteries d'Albi are reissuing some of the lines made at the time of the grandparents of the two designers, Lore and Elisabeth, in limited editions. What a pot!

View of the Poteries d'Albi workshops www.lespoteriesdalbi.fr

### Tuna trainers

### Pantuna trainers made from tuna leather in Graulhet

Designing solid and durable fashion trainers in an organic and wild material, nothing is impossible for Pantuna, the first manufacturer in the world to use tuna leather in its creations. Fashioned by a Portuguese family workshop, thanks to an innovative tanning method developed by the La Molière tannery in Graulhet, France, the material, which comes from tuna fishing waste, is transformed into aesthetic and biodegradable scale inserts and structures. Established in the south, timeless, and inheriting an expertise that has spanned the ages, the brand's three designs are taking a big step into the future of textile clothing, and quite literally give the wearer a taste for the future...!

Maison Pantuna - three designs of trainers from €155 per pair - www.maisonpantuna.com Graulhet's leathers have been worn by Miss France



# Seeing life through bluetinted glasses in the land of pink garlic

Woad dyeing workshop in Lautrec Lautrec, land of plenty? Yes, it is! Because this "plenty" is a ball of crushed, fermented and dried woad leaves, used since the Middle Ages to dye fabrics a blue colour, reserved for the highest echalons of society. Françoise, a passionate dyer, makes her own woad and woad indigo dyes in Lautrec, and shares some of her manufacturing secrets with her one-day trainees. Dyeing your own fabric or cotton scarf while listening to the fascinating story of woad, is an unusual activity, a way of seeing through blue-tinted glasses, an experience to be had in the land of pink garlic.

La Ferme au Village, Françoise Carayol

- Discovery Workshop: the history of woad, duration 1.5 hours €35.
- C'est moi qui teins workshop duration ½ day - €100 www.lafermeauvillage.fr

Do you speak the Tarn language?
In the Tar', we chat using a few local words which do not fail to arouse the curiosity of visitors who have come to visit the land of Jean Jaurès and Toulouse-Lautrec.

# the Tarn

### A LITTLE LEXICON OF TARN WORDS:

Here, you'll love to poutouner (to get together) with your loved ones, family or friends! You'll fousiquer (explore), escagoter (lounge around) and ganzouiller (splash about). You'll love to toupiner (enjoy) our 100% Tarn products! And, above all, you will be espanté\* (\*astonished)! Milediou! You deserve to take your time... because the Tarn is good for you!



# 5 SITES AND OBJECTS WITH UNESCO STATUS

THE EPISCOPAL CITY - Albi
THE RIGOLE DE LA MONTAGNE NOIRE
AND THE VOÛTE VAUBAN - Canal du Midi
AUBUSSON'S INTANGIBLE HERITAGE
LA MAPPA MUNDI - Albi
THE CHURCH OF NOTRE-DAME-DU-BOURG - Rabastens



# 3 MAJOR SITES OF THE OCCITAN REGION

ALBI, VALLÉE DU TARN
CORDES SUR CIEL and medieval towns, hilltop bastides
THE ORIGINS OF THE CANAL DU MIDI





# 5 OF FRANCE'S MOST BEAUTIFUL VILLAGES

PUYCELCI MONESTIÈS LAUTREC CASTELNAU-DE-MONTMIRAIL CORDES SUR CIEL



# 3 SMALL TOWNS OF CHARACTER

AMBIALET LACAZE LISLE-SUR-TARN



# 2 ART AND HISTORY TOWNS AND AREAS

GAILLAC, a thousand-year-old town





2 MAISON DES ILLUSTRES (QUALITY BUILDING) SITES
301 HISTORIC MONUMENTS

10 REMARKABLE HERITAGE SITES





# REGIONAL NATURAL PARK

THE HAUT-LANGUEDOC REGIONAL NATU-

1 "VIGNOBLE ET DÉCOUVERTE" (VINEYARD AND DISCOVERY) DESTINATION

**7** GREEN RESORTS

**4** BLUE FLAG SITES



# 5 REMARKABLE GARDENS

LE JARDIN DES MARTELS - Giroussens LE JARDIN DE L'EVÊCHÉ - Castres LES JARDINS DE LA BERBIE - Albi LE JARDIN DES PARADIS - Cordes sur Ciel LE PARC ROCHEGUDE - Albi



**DIARY** 

### FEBRU-

Albi Carnival
A week of celebrations and
parades with big heads in the
streets of the Episcopal City.
18 Feb to 3 March.
@carnavalalbi

### MARCH

Black mountain trail 2,500 participants take the Pic de Nore challenge in the Montagne Noire. 4 March, Saint-Amans-Soult. @black\_mountain\_trail

# APRIL

The reopening of the Musée Mine Départemental A unique site to promote the industrial mining heritage of the Tarn with an immersive tour in the galleries. Opens 21st April. Cagnac-les-Mines. @museestarn

The reopening of the Musée Goya Museum of Spanish art: Goya, Miro, Vélasquez, Dali and more. @museegoyacastres

### JUNE

Nuit Pastel Cultural light walk in the Episcopal City 3Rd June, Albi. @les-nuits-pastel

### JULY

Aperitif-concerts in the vineyards
July & August.
@vinsdegaillac

Festival Pause Guitare 5 to 9 July, Albi @pause\_guitare81albi

Places aux Artistes More than 30 multidisciplinary performances and events in the squares of the episcopal city 18 July to 19 August, Albi.

Fête de la Charcuterie (Charcuterie Festival) 23rd July, Lacaune. @salaisonslacaune

Tour de France Féminin (Women's Tour de France) Arrival and departure stage, Albi

La Nuit Pastel in Albi

27 & 28 July eletourfemmes AUGUST

Fête de l'Ail Rose de Lautrec (Lautrec Pink Garlic Festival) Garlic market, entertainment, competition for the longest bunch of garlic. 4 & 5 August, Lautrec. @ailroselautrec\_labelrouge\_igp

Fête des Vins de Gaillac Winegrower's village, entertainment 4 to 6 August, Gaillac. @vinsdegaillac

Festival Jazz Ô Palais 31st Aug to 2 Sept, Albi @jazzopalaisalbi

# SEPTEMBER

L'Escapade Vénitienne Venetian Carnival, nighttime entertainment on the water. 14th to 17th Sept., Castres.

Charcu'trail
Trail in the Monts de Lacaune.

@Charcu'trails de Lacaune

### **OCTOBER**

Le Fascinant Week-end 19th to 22nd Oct. in the vineyards. @fascinantweekend

Le Cuir dans la Peau Leather upcycling 25th & 26th Oct., Graulhet

Autour du Vin Wine trades 27 Oct., in the Gaillacois vineyards @vinsdegaillac

### NOVEMBER

Chai mon Vigneron Visit and meet winegrowers 16–19 November @ vinsdegaillac

Marché de Noël et Fresques de lumières, Castres One of Occitania's most beautiful Christmas markets.

Illuminations at the Palais de la



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Lautrec, city of pink garlic, One of "France's most beautiful towns"