

A low-angle photograph of the bell tower of Tarn Cathedral, showing its massive cylindrical stone structure and Gothic architectural details. In the lower-left foreground, a man and a woman are walking hand-in-hand, looking towards the right. The man is wearing a white shirt and blue shorts, and the woman is wearing a light blue dress. The sky is clear and blue.

City trip

GREEN GETAWAY
IN THE TARN

TARN
TOURISME



Albi, Unesco Episcopal City, between culture and nature

St. Cecile Cathedral

The largest brick building in the world
The largest painted cathedral in Europe with 18,500 m² of frescoes and decorations, it reads like an illustrated Bible.

The Berbie Palace and the Toulouse-Lautrec Museum

One of the oldest episcopal palaces in France dating from the Middle Ages with its garden classified as a Remarkable Garden. The Palace contains the most important public collection devoted to Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, major painter of the late 19th century native of Albi, famous worldwide for his posters of Parisian life.

The Episcopal City, Unesco site

The cobbled streets of the historic center, the brick or half-timbered houses, the private mansions of rich pastel makers, the coître Saint-Salvy or the Pont Vieux, one of the oldest in France, offer a journey through history. Albi is also a cultural and lively town with its know-how shops (Pastel, Toiles de la Montagne Noire) and its covered market.

45 minutes by train or car from Toulouse, the Episcopal City of Albi la rouge, classified by Unesco since 2010, is a heritage ensemble of bricks which has earned it the nickname of Albi la rouge. In the heart of the historic center, Sainte-Cécile Cathedral is an imposing flagship in the southern Gothic style. Albi is a heritage nugget with its medieval streets and mansions, it is also a green city that lives to the rhythm of the Tarn river.



Albi nature side

The city lives to the rhythm of the river with nature activities:

- 4km walk on the "Echapée verte" and its bamboo grove along the banks of the Tarn
- Apero-Paddle or stand up paddle at the foot of Ste-Cécile Cathedral
- Gabarre aperitive with tasting of Gaillac wines on the boat that was used to transport the wine barrels

Visit Albi in a 2 CV

« Le Tacot Cathare » offers an unusual guided tour of Albi in the vintage spirit aboard « Griotte », a mythical red 2CV, so French!





La Villa Caroline, Chambre d'hôtes Albi

City break in Albi



L'Autre Rives, chambre d'hôtes, Albi



Kassiopée bed & Spa, Chambre d'hôtes avec spa
privatif (Ecoconception) Albi

Camping site in the city

Albi Rondack is a nature campsite on the banks of the river with its wooden chalets and cabins perched in the trees / albirondack.fr

Kassiopée bed and spa

A B&B with private spa on the terrace in a green park in the heart of Albi / kassiopee.fr

La Villa Caroline

A Franco-Spanish B&B that offers the most beautiful view of Sainte-Cécile Cathedral. villacaroline-albi.com

L'Epicurien

A Swedish chef who offers modern and gourmet cuisine

Le Lautrec

You can try cassoulet de morue (cod), a typical Albi dish, or one of the dishes in the recipe book by the painter Toulouse-Lautrec.

Amapola kitchen

vegetable and healthy dishes from a DJ chef in a pocket bistro with flavors from around the world.



Toulouse-Lautrec Museum, Albi

Around Albi, Nature in the Tarn Valley

paddle at dusk

30 minutes from Albi, the Ambialet peninsula is the smallest isthmus in Europe. Labeled Blue Flag, the city offers bathing areas and activities on the river such as canoeing or paddle boarding. In summer, you can paddle down there at dusk in the footsteps of beavers



A nature break in the Tarn valley

20 minutes from Albi, the Ambialet peninsula is the smallest isthmus in Europe. There are several walks to admire the meander of the Tarn and discover this landscape curiosity.

The village has been awarded the "Pavillon Bleu" (Blue Flag) label, and offers bathing and river activities such as canoeing and paddle-boarding, as well as numerous cycling and biodiversity discovery outings.

Minor for a day

Coal mining in the Carmausin basin dates back to the 12th century and continued until 1997. 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.



Ambialet, Vallée du Tarn





The houses on the Agout, former homes of tanners, dyers and weavers, with their colorful facades give Castres an air of little Girona. The city is also Hispanic with its Goya Museum, which presents the most important collection of Hispanic art after the Louvre.

Castres, A cultural city in the Black Mountain

Goya Museum

After three years of closure for works, the Goya Museum reopened its doors in the spring of 2023. Visitors are offered a metamorphosed museum: renovated spaces, a new elegant and airy display, unpublished works, tools for mediation, an opening to contemporary art. The museum is housed in the former Episcopal Palace, in the garden of the Bishop's Palace designed by Le Notre.

  **Albi / Castres**
42 km bike line



Goya Museum
* 21 salles d'exposition
* Exposition "Goya dans l'oeil de Picasso"
museegoya.fr





Goya Museum, Castres



Mazamet Footbridge in the black mountain



Castres / Mazamet

22 km bike line
Veloccitanie line

One of the 3 Himalayan gateways in France

With its 70 m high, its 120 meters long, it connects the new town of Mazamet to the old medieval Castrum of Hautpoul. In addition to the vertiginous crossing, accessible to families, you can take a via ferrata and even 4 zip lines, one of which is 180 meters long !



Villa Pinewood **A starred chef prodigy**

his exceptional table offers an oeno-gastronomic stroll in the heart of the wild terroir of the black mountain with products picked or produced within a radius of 20 km around the house. Villa Pinewood offers an immersive experience rewarded with a Michelin star (2023) along with a green star for its committed and sustainable approach.



Blue dying workshop, Lautrec



1 Régional Natural Park
7 Green stations
4 Greenways
8 Sensitive Natural Spaces
1 destination labeled Vineyards
and Discovery (Gaillac vineyard)
5 500 km of hiking trails
180 000 ha of woods and forests
16 rivers 14 lakes
4 Blue flag sites

Hiking in the Tarn

Appointment with the wild

1 The exotic : Arifat Waterfalls

The end of the world at your fingertips. A lichen forest, a rope bridge, three waterfalls, one of which is over 80 meters high. With its air of Amazonia, the hike to the Arifat waterfalls is family-friendly. A true oasis of freshness in summer.

2 The gourmet garlic trail

Leaving from Lautrec, a remarkable site of taste, passing by one of the few mills still in operation, the garlic trail takes us on the road to the fields of Garlic Rose de Lautrec. You can admire the hilly landscapes of the Pays de Cocagne.

3 The Oenorandos®

6 hikes have been labeled oenorando®. They offer a discovery of the landscapes of the Gaillac vineyard, biodiversity and small heritage from a wine estate.

4 The cultural, in the footsteps of Dom Robert

In the heart of the Montagne Noire and its coat of resinous trees, follow in the footsteps of the monk and artist Dom Robert, first a watercolourist then the grand master of Aubusson tapestry. Discover the arid landscapes, herds of sheep and patous dogs or the farmyards that inspired the work of Dom Robert exhibited in the city of Sorèze.

5 Wild itinerary : GR736

This new route takes its source in the Cévennes, passing through Aveyron, and ends its journey in beauty in the Tarn over 40 km. It winds through the Tarn valley, through the meander of Ambialet and follows the river to the banks at the foot of the Episcopal city. Upon arrival, the Sainte-Cécile Cathedral is a sublime reward.



Les 2 cabanes, chambre d'hôtes
Pays de Cogne



Reconnecting with nature

The Sidobre

the largest granite massif in Europe

Sidobre is a granite island in one piece of 100 km², a unique geological exception in Europe. Giant or trembling rocks, rivers of rocks and chaos: the Sidobre is a family and fun legendary site where you come across monumental rocks in the shape of goose or mushrooms, a lake where hippopotamus rocks swim or even a rock of 700 tons balanced on a 1m² granite base. The Sidobre has more than 60 routes from 10 minutes to 1 day.



Soft mobility in the Tarn

The Tarn by train with the Occitanie Rail Tour

Developed by the Occitanie Region, the Occitanie Rail Tour allows you to discover the nuggets of South-West France by train. In the Tarn, the Route des Cathédrales, the Routes of the bastides and beautiful villages of France and the Route du Tarn allow you to discover the heritage and natural nuggets of the Tarn.
<https://www.tourisme-occitanie.com/rail-tour/>

4 Greenways and veloccitanie

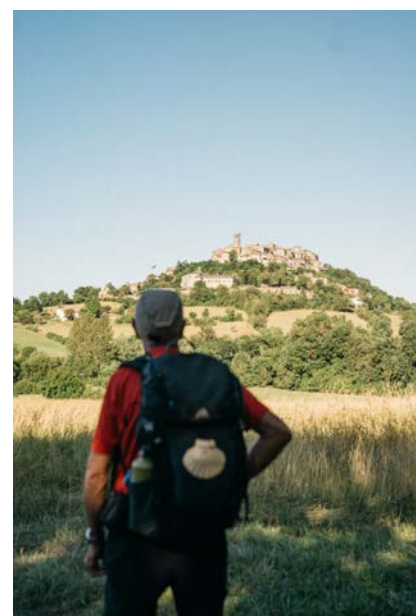
The 4 Tarn greenways allow you to travel by bike in the Tarn. The greenway between Albi and Castres is a 42 km route that connects the 2 cultural towns of the Tarn (luggage service available). The Passa País and the Velloccitanie on the V84 route cross the Tarn from east to west for 88 km in the middle of nature between the Monts de Lacaune and the Montagne Noire to the Sources of the Canal du Midi.

Athletes will also be able to follow in the footsteps of the star of the Tour de France, Laurent Jalabert from Tarn, on his 79 km expert level route.

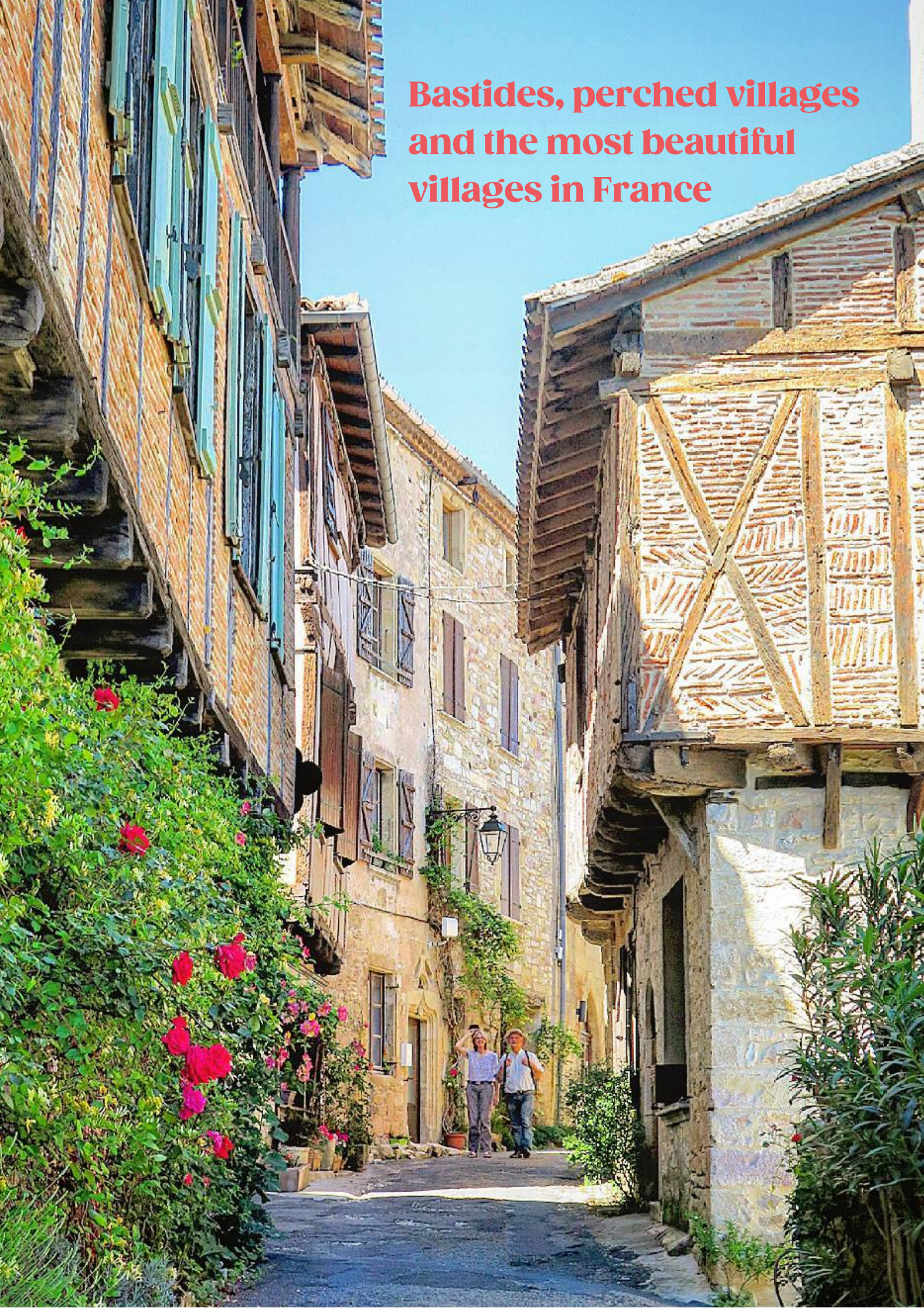
In family, we prefer routes by electric bike. Vineyards and bastides, Tarn valley, Les Cammazes: itineraries from 1 hour to 1 day of excursion with the hair in the wind!

Roaming: 2 routes to Compostela and 4 GR

Fans of roaming can set off on one of the two Compostela routes: the Conques-Toulouse which crosses the beautiful villages of Cordes sur Ciel or Rabastens and the vineyard; or the Arles route which crosses the Montagne Noire via Castres and the granite massif of Sidobre. 4 GR mesh the Tarn, including the new GR 736 offering a nature route of 40 km between Vallée du Tarn and Albi.



**Bastides, perched villages
and the most beautiful
villages in France**



Cordes sur Ciel 800 years above the skies

It is the oldest fortified town in the Tarn, and the city of 100 warheads with an exceptional and preserved heritage. Most beautiful village in France and favorite village of French people 2014.



Puycelsi, perched village

On its rock, Puycelsi is a fortified village overlooking the Grésigne forest which has retained the charm and mystery of medieval bastides. Adjoining the village, the Orchard Conservatory reveals old fruit varieties of apples, pears and grapes.

Vintage ride on a solex

Vintage Mopeds 81 invites you to discover the Vère river, the Grésigne forest and the village of Puycelsi with your hair in the wind with solex rides. A sweet way to immerse yourself in the France of the sixties.



Penne, the fortress of the woods

Clinging to its rocky outcrop, the Château de Penne offers an immersion in the Middle Ages. You can become a knight or a stonemason for a day during the medieval events in the summer. From the top of the fortress the panorama over the valley is breathtaking.

Castelnau de Montmiral, back to the past

Arrived in the center of the village, one has the impression of having crossed the centuries! Castelnau has kept the atmosphere of medieval towns with its central square.



Lautrec, city of Pink Garlic and Pastel

Lautrec is a colorful village: that of Pink Garlic; fragrant, the only French garlic to have the Label Rouge; and the color of the traditional pastel dye typical of the Pays de Cocagne. In Lautrec, garlic soup is eaten all year round and the Pink Garlic Festival is celebrated on the first weekend of August.



Apero-concert in the vineyards, Domaine Cinq-Peyres, Gaillac

TARN

OCCITANIE

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