# Medieval France: The Lot Valley

COUNTRY WALKS, PREHISTORIC CAVES, AND MAGNIFICENT CHATEAUX



### TRIP DATES

2025 May 24-June 1, 2025 October 4-12, 2025



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# Medieval France: The Lot Valley

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There's a little gem tucked away in a tiny corner of southwest France—the Lot Valley, a secluded world of medieval cliff-top hamlets, Romanesque abbeys, open-air markets, ancient chateaux, and a savory cuisine flavored with truffles and wild mushrooms. In this deeply French realm, we hike along the tranquil Lot River and across pilgrim paths between spectacular hilltop villages. We also explore the prehistoric Pech Merle cave, filled with extraordinary rock paintings, and sample the delicious wares of local wineries and small farms. Overnights are in hand-selected historic hotels, including the majestic 13th century Château de Mercuès overlooking the Lot River.





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# **Itinerary**

### DAY 1 RODEZ / CONQUES

We meet in the medieval town of Rodez this morning (please arrive dressed for hiking!). Our journey begins as we explore the small villages north of Rodez, walking from the hamlet of Saint-Austremoine, nestled among vineyards, to Salles-la-Source, a medieval hamlet perched on a cliff that features a magnificent waterfall surging from an underground river. After lunch, we enjoy a hike followed by a visit to an off-the-beaten-path winery in the area of Marcillac, a red sandstone village nestled among one of the oldest vineyards of France. The prized red and rosé wines of Marcillac are 90 percent from the Mansois grape. Afterwards, we head to our hotel, the small and charming Le Moulin de Cambelong, just outside the dramatically perched medieval village of Conques. We gather for a Welcome Dinner at the hotel...LD Hiking Details: 2.5 miles, 1 hour, 250 feet ascent, 150 feet descent Driving Time: 1.5 hours

### DAY 2 CONQUES / THE WAY OF ST. JAMES

Heading above beautiful Conques and the tiny hamlet of Montignac, we follow a pastoral path through villages and verdant fields to a viewpoint overlooking Conques. The town grew around an abbey initiated in the 8th century when Dado, a local hermit, founded a small monastic community. The abbey is a spectacular example of Romanesque architecture and became a major stopover for the pilgrims hiking the El Camino de Santiago (The Way of St. James) to the holy city of Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Conques continues to attract pilgrims today, and the abbey church and pilgrims' bridge are World Heritage Sites. After lunch, we enjoy a guided tour of sacred Conques and learn about the iconography of the stone sculptures of the Church of St. Foy. We also view the abbey's treasures, a collection of exquisite reliquaries dating from the 9th century, including the gold reliquary statue of St. Foy, encrusted with jewels and cameos. Later we enjoy a stroll in the streets of Conques before returning to our hotel for dinner. Overnight at Le Moulin de Cambelong...BLD Hiking Details: 5 miles, 5-5.5 hours, 100 feet ascent, 500 feet descent

### DAY 3 CONQUES / ESTAING

A lovely country drive of about an hour brings us to medieval Bessuéjouls, where we visit its Romanesque church, then hike to medieval Estaing following the pilgrim path through picturesque countryside. Estaing, listed as one of "les plus beaux villages de France" (the most beautiful villages of France), is set at the mouth of the Lot River Gorge and has fine medieval and Renaissance houses as well as a handsome stone bridge. After lunch in Estaing, we stroll around the village before heading back to Conques following a scenic route along the Lot River. Overnight at Le Moulin de Cambelong...BLD Hiking Details: 7 miles

Driving Time: 2 hours

# FRANCE Pech Merle Cahors Chateau de Calvignac Rodez To Toulouse

### TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

**Length:** 9 days

Arrive: Rodez, France

Depart: Toulouse, France

**Lodging:** 8 nights charming inns

and a restored château

Meals: All meals included except

1 lunch and 1 dinner (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch,

D=Dinner)

Activity: Cultural Adventures,

Hiking / Trekking

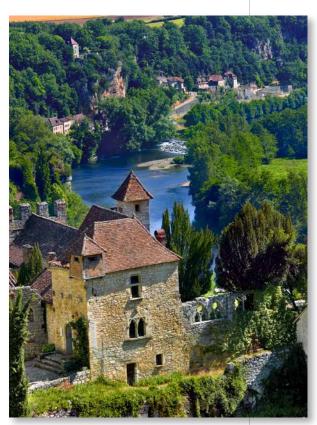
Trip Level: 1 2 3 4 5 6

A mix of easy to moderate walks and hikes, 2-4 hours a day, van support (for luggage or if you wish to skip a day's hike)

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Hike on pilgrim trails and secret paths between villages perched on cliffs above the Lot River
- Discover the remarkable prehistoric cave paintings of Pech Merle
- Hotels of character, from a restored mill to a 13th century château
- Delicious regional cuisine, from chestnuts to foie gras, tasty Cahors wines

# Itinerary (cont'd)



### FIGEAC / CÉLÉ VALLEY

We depart Conques for a very scenic morning drive along the meandering Lot River to the charming medieval town of Figeac. Lying along the north bank of the Célé River, Figeac has maintained its beautiful medieval architecture and maze of ancient twisting alleys. We enjoy a guided visit to this beautiful town with an emphasis on medieval architecture. Figeac was also the home of the scholar and Egyptologist Jean-François Champollion, who deciphered the Rosetta Stone. In town, we'll see hieroglyphs carved on the Place des Écritures and other Egyptian signs and symbols. After lunch in Figeac, we head for the timeless Célé River, which has carved a deep valley flanked by vividly colored cliffs with villages clinging to the slopes. We enjoy a hike along the river and overnight at Hotel Le Grézalide, a lovely country hotel with a stunning location...BLD Hiking Details: 5 miles

Driving Time: 2 hours

### DAY 5 ALZOU GORGE / ROCAMADOUR

After breakfast, we drive to Gramat and begin our hike from the hamlet of Lauzou, following a trail to Rocamadour that is part of the historic El Camino de Santiago trail. Our hike is a dramatic one, bringing us along the gorge of the Alzou River, with views of the

ruins of 13th century mills, and a spectacular arrival in tiny Rocamadour, one of the most picturesque perched villages in France. After lunch, we enjoy an exploration of this remarkable town, a pilgrimage destination since 1166, when the body of an early Christian hermit, St. Amadour, was discovered here in a miraculous state of preservation. Many miracles have been credited to this town, and St. Amadour's tomb rests in the Basilica of St. Sauveur. Overnight at the Hotel Le Grézalide...BLD

Hiking Details: 5 miles, 4 hours, 600 feet ascent, 250 feet descent Driving Time: 1.5 hours

# DAY 6 PECH MERLE CAVE / LOT RIVER HIKE / ST. CIRQ LAPOPIE / CHÂTEAU DE MERCUÉS

The mysterious prehistoric painted cave of Pech Merle was discovered in 1922 by three teenagers who scrambled through a 400-foot passage to find a magnificent cavern decorated with prehistoric drawings dating back to the Gravettian and Magdalenian periods (25,000 to 16,000 BC). Mammoths, bison, and horses gallop on the cave walls of this sanctuary of art, one of only two original caves from the Magdalenian period to remain open to the public. After exploring the numerous galleries of Pech Merle and its beautiful limestone formations, we hike down to the village of Cabrerets for a delicious lunch. Afterwards, we cross the Lot on a narrow bridge and continue along the south bank, where the trail is a tow-path carved from the overhanging rock, recalling the days when river transport was the life-blood of the Lot Valley. In

"This is a trip we will long remember. It immersed us in the atmosphere of old France, from quaint medieval hilltop villages to prehistoric caves to nights in a romantic chateau.

And we spent days hiking through the stunning landscape surrounding the Lot River."

\*\*Bruce B., Ventura, CA\*\*

this section of the river, barges loaded with salt, dried fish, spices, or gypsum could not be towed by horse teams but only by crews of strong men. We arrive at the foot of the village of St. Cirq Lapopie and finish our hike with a short ascent to its cobbled streets and terraced gardens. St. Cirq Lapopie is one of the most beautiful villages in the Lot region. Many Post-Impressionist and Surrealist poets and artists settled in the narrow, tile-roofed houses here, including André Breton, the Surrealist poet who described the village as "like an impossible rose in the night." We drive to Château de Mercuès, our accommodation for the next three nights and once the property of the count-bishops of Cahors...BLD

Hiking Details: 7 miles Driving Time: 2 hours



### DAY 7 CALVIGNAC / CHÂTEAU DE CÉNEVIERES

Our morning hike brings us along the banks of the river and up to the rock-perched village of Calvignac. We explore the sleepy streets and savor the views of the gentle valley before continuing on a peaceful trail framed by boxwood and oak trees to the top of a plateau for grand views of the Lot Valley. We descend gradually to the 13th century Château de Cénevières for a picnic lunch. The Château de Cénevières has a rich and colorful history, and once belonged to King Pepin le Bref, Charlemagne's father. The lord of the château welcomes us for a tour of his noble family home, a unique opportunity to hear the stories behind this historic residence. Dinner is on your own in the lively medieval town of Cahors, and the Trip Leader will be happy to make recommendations of local cafes and restaurants. Overnight at the Château de Mercuès...BL

Hiking Details: 4.5 miles, 3-3.5 hours, 650 feet ascent, 550 feet descent Driving Time: 2.5 hours

# DAY 8 CAHORS / WINE COUNTRY

We head toward Cahors, entering on foot over the famous medieval Pont Valentré spanning the Lot River. After exploring the town on a walking tour, we enjoy the lively outdoor market that takes place every Wednesday and Saturday in front of the cathedral. It is one of the most genuine of southwest France, an event not to be missed, with displays of fresh fruits and vegetables, and animated scenes of daily life including beret-topped old men and housewives clutching chickens by their legs. In October, mushrooms, pâte, and delectable foie gras are for sale. Lunch is on your own—you can dine at a local cafe or purchase some delicacies from the market. Returning to our hotel in the afternoon, we may have time to hike around the property.

The Cahors region is the oldest wine-producing region of France, dating to

"A great trip at a perfect time of year. The hotels were excellent, in keeping with the theme of old France. The meals were a delight, and the hikes took us through beautiful riverine landscapes and quaint medieval villages. This is the ultimate trip to France."

Elizabeth B., Ventura, CA



# Itinerary (cont'd)



"This trip was perfect: exquisite itinerary, stunning scenery, charming hotels, incredible food, and outstanding trip leaders. I didn't want it to end!"

Judith K., South Portland, ME

Roman times, and Cahors wine is a deep red made from malbec, merlot, and jurancon grapes grown in ruddy soil scattered with limestone pebbles. The Château de Mercuès produces a range of excellent wines from several estates, and tonight we have a wonderful opportunity to enjoy wine tasting in the large vaulted cellar hidden below the chateau. We gather for our Farewell Dinner in the Michelin-starred restaurant of the chateau...BD Hiking Details: 3 miles (optional)

### DAY 9 DEPART

After breakfast, transfer to the Toulouse Airport (1.5 to 2-hour drive) for those departing on flights to Paris...B



# Trip Cost, Payment & Insurance

### TRIP COST

Prices for this trip are being finalized. Contact us and we'll send them to you as soon as they are available.

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

### **CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE**

Due to the volatility of currency markets, we can only offer the most competitive pricing on our trips in Europe by partially tying the trip cost directly to the value of the Euro. In the late spring of 2022, when we set the rates for our 2023 program, the US Dollar equaled 0.93 Euros. While in most years, no price changes are ever necessary, if there were to be a significant change in exchange rates, we may be forced to raise or able to lower our trip cost; if so, your final invoice, sent two weeks before your final payment is due, will reflect the difference. Please note that the calculation will not be a straight proration. While most of the trip cost is paid in Euros, the remainder of our expenses are paid in US Dollars. The overall effect is to moderate any change; thus, if the Euro were to rise in value, the land price would rise less than might be expected, and if the Euro were to fall, the drop in trip cost would also be less than might be expected.

### TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- Accommodations in chateaux, inns, and hotels
- All meals included except 1 lunch and 1 dinner as indicated in the Detailed Itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- A glass of wine or beer with dinner
- Entrances to museums and sites, canoe and boat trips
- Land transportation, airport transfers for recommended flights as indicated

### TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare, any meals not specified after each itinerary day, airport departure taxes, transfers other than those provided for group flights, optional tipping or gratuities to leaders or staff, additional hotel nights that may be necessary due to airline schedule changes or other factors, travel insurance, and other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, telephone calls).

### PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: \$600 90 days prior to departure: Balance

### CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Up to 91 days prior to departure: No charge! 61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost 46-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost 45 days or less: 100% of trip cost

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details: <a href="https://www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance">www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance</a>

# **Arrival & Departure**

Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements.

### ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Rodez, France

Suggested Airport: Rodez-Aveyron Airport (RDZ) Suggested Date & Time: Anytime prior to Day 1

**Meeting Place:** You will meet your Trip Leader in the lobby of Hotel Mercure Rodez Cathédrale at 10:00 am on Day 1.

Trip members are responsible for traveling to Rodez on their own to rendezvous with the group on Day 1. Given the meeting time and place, we recommend you plan on arriving in Rodez at least one day before the trip begins.

For flights from Paris to Rodez, most people will need to transfer from CDG to Orly. The Air France Shuttle Service is a good choice for many people. See <u>transfer.airport-paris.com/air-france-coach-service.htm</u> for information on the Air France shuttle and other options for travel to Orly from CDG.

You might also consider taking the train from Paris to Rodez, although it is at least an 8-hour ride. You can find train schedules and fares at <a href="https://www.raileurope.com">www.raileurope.com</a>.

### **DEPARTURE**

Cahors, France

Suggested Airport: Toulouse Airport (TLS)
Suggested Date & Time: Day 9, 12:45 pm or later

There will be one group transfer to the Toulouse Airport leaving the Château de Mercuès at 9:00 am and arriving at 11:00 am at the Toulouse airport.

**Train and Early Morning Flights:** You can also depart from the Cahors train station anytime on Day 9. Your Trip Leader can arrange a taxi transfer for you (at your own expense) from our final hotel.

It is possible to fly from Toulouse to Paris earlier in the morning. Trip members departing on early morning flights are responsible for transferring to Toulouse Airport on their own (a taxi could cost more than €200). Your Trip Leaders can assist you with reserving this taxi.

### INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from France.

There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found on Exito's website at <a href="https://www.exitotravel.com">www.exitotravel.com</a>.

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the US one or possibly two days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip. Once your tickets have been purchased, please send us a copy of your airline schedule so we can reserve your airport transfers. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

### RECOMMENDED HOTELS

Paris: The Hotel St. Jacques is a charming Parisian-style hotel located in the heart of the Latin Quarter, right next to the Sorbonne. The hotel can be booked directly at <a href="https://www.hotel-saintjacques.com">www.hotel-saintjacques.com</a>. If you plan on staying right at Charles de Gaulle Airport, we recommend the CitizenM Hotel, located within walking distance of Terminal 3; <a href="https://www.citizenm.com">www.citizenm.com</a>.

**Rodez:** Located in the town center right on the square and opposite the cathedral, Mercure Rodez Cathédrale is about 6 miles from the Rodez Airport. <a href="https://www.accorhotels.com">www.accorhotels.com</a>.

**Toulouse:** If you plan on staying in Toulouse, we recommend the Grand Hotel de l'Opera, right in the heart of Toulouse. <a href="www.grand-hotel-opera.com">www.grand-hotel-opera.com</a>.

# **Trip Leaders**

Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible. The Trip Leader for each departure is listed on the "Dates & Prices" tab on our *Medieval France: The Lot Valley* webpage: <a href="http://www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/france/lot-valley-hiking">http://www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/france/lot-valley-hiking</a>.



### LAURENCE FRISON

Traveler, hiker, skier, and guide by passion, and graphic designer by trade, Laurence ("Lolo") Frison embodies the life of an adventurer. She spent a decade exploring the world from Africa to Australia, including a three-month road trip from Vancouver to Los Angeles, and has specialized in guiding groups in the French Alps, gaining her French national credential in mountain leadership. When not leading hiking adventures with WT, she enjoys biking and beekeeping in Thonon-les-Bains in the French Alps, where she lives.



### TANIA MASI

Born in Florence, Italy, of an American mother and a Florentine father, Tania Masi was raised with an appreciation for both American and European cultures. Her passion for hiking has started at a very early age and today she holds an International Mountain Leader license from Austria. She speaks nine languages, has a Masters in geography and is an avid climber. "Mountains are my antidote to the modern frenetic speed: they are made of beauty, challenge, solitude, and silence." When not leading trips, Tania loves to explore new mountain faces to climb. She currently lives in southern Tuscany with husband and daughter.



### TIM BURFORD

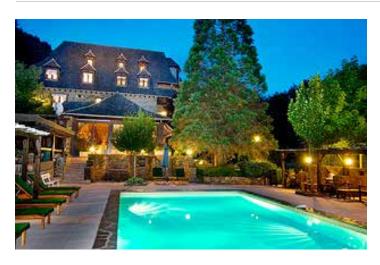
Tim Burford's jovial persistence to explore the ends of the world, which led him to write hiking guidebooks for such destinations as Chile and Alaska, is only matched by his contagious passion to lead hiking adventures closer to his native England. "I love going to other parts of the world, but one can never really be bored in Europe, it's just packed with beauty and variety." Tim holds a master's in French literature from Oxford, and lives in Cambridge. When not writing or leading our hiking adventures, he enjoys sailing and cycling.



### STEPHAN RENARD

Stephan Renard was born in Grenoble in the French Alps and grew up in the wild and remote Vercors region of the Rhône-Alpes, where he gained his passion for hiking, climbing, and skiing. A professional mountain leader and ski instructor since his youth, he loves outdoor pursuits of every kind and also has an affinity for jazz music, French and American literature, and Irish culture (acquired during his years of guiding French tours in Ireland).

# Lodging



### LE MOULIN DE CAMBELONG

Conques, France
Days 1 to 3 (3 nights)

Nestled at the bottom of the ravine that it shares with the stunning village of Conques, this small hotel-restaurant occupies a restored 18th century water mill on the banks of the Dourdou River. The guest rooms are spacious and well appointed, and the charming living room is a perfect place to sip an Armagnac by the fireplace!



### HOTEL LE GREZALIDE

Grezes, France
Days 4 to 5 (2 nights)

This unique countryside hotel has a stunning and peaceful location. It is a beautifully adapted historic building with a great restaurant, gorgeous landscaped grounds, and an inviting swimming pool for a refreshing dip after a day of exploring.



CHATEAU DE MERCUES

Mercues-Cahors, France Days 6 to 8 (3 nights)

Once the property of the count-bishops of Cahors, this renovated 13th century chateau has breathtaking views overlooking the mighty Lot River. The hotel's restaurant has a Michelin star, and there's a fabulous wine cellar underneath the chateau. This is an unforgettable place for our final nights in the Lot Valley.

These are our signature accommodations for this trip. Although it is highly unlikely, we may make substitutions when necessary. To see more photos and descriptions, please visit our *Medieval France: The Lot Valley* webpage and click on the "Lodging" tab.

# **Trip Details**

### WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is rated a Level 2+ (Easy to Moderate) according to our trip grading system. You will need to be comfortable hiking 5 miles a day and being on your feet for up to 5 hours a day. Trail conditions, weather, and the group's level of fitness can affect hiking times and pacing.

Average Hiking Day

- 4 miles
- 3 hours
- 400 feet gain/loss

### Challenge Day

• Day 5: 5 miles, 4 hours, 650 feet gain, and 250 feet loss

### **TERRAIN**

We enjoy day walks and hikes over variable terrains, including rolling countryside walks, riverside trails, clifftop paths, and country roads. The trails are generally shaded by trees, and there are some stony sections, but most are well-maintained and easy to navigate.

### **GETTING IN SHAPE**

We strongly urge you to train for your trip, as your enjoyment will be highly dependent on your level of fitness. The best training for a hike is to hike, especially over hills or rough terrain. Next best are running, swimming, bicycling, or other cardiovascular exercise. Stair climbing machines are excellent preparation for hiking uphill. Your feet should also be well prepared—make sure your hiking boots are sturdy, comfortable, and thoroughly broken-in.

### **WEATHER**

Temperatures are mild, typically reaching the high 60s°F to the low 70s°F during the day and cooling to the 40s°F or 50s°F at night. While weather conditions are usually stable, it is necessary to be prepared for a variety of conditions, as it can unexpectedly shift from warm and pleasant to damp and chilly with rainy conditions. Raingear and warm layers are necessary to bring on every hike.

### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

In an effort to capture the spirit of old Europe, the hotels that we use are often family-run converted chateaux or inns, full of ambiance and colorful local history. Since they are often in historic buildings, the rooms are not always of uniform or international size. Our leaders do their best to assign rooms in a fair way so that all participants experience an equal advantage throughout the trip as a whole. Single rooms can be requested but are not always available, due to the limited space in the hotels. If you prefer a single room, please make your request as early as possible.

### CUISINE

We will have a variety of delicious regional cuisine including many of the local products that the region is known for. Lunches are either picnic-style during our hikes or taken at a restaurant in town. Dinners will be at our hotel or at a local restaurant, and all menus are preset. Please note that in Europe, the dinner hour is considerably later than what it is in the US. We do our best to secure early reservations for our groups, but most often the evening meal will be at 7:30 pm.

	HIKIN	G DETAILS B	Y DAY	DRIVING DETAILS				
DAY	HOURS	MILES	ELEV. GAIN/LOSS	HOURS				
1	1 hour	2.5 miles	+250' / -150'	1.5 hours				
2	5-5.5 hours	5 miles	+100' / -500'	20 mins				
3		7 miles		2 hours				
4		5 miles		2 hours				
5	4 hours	5 miles	+600' / -250'	1.5 hours				
6		7 miles		2 hours				
7	3-3.5 hours	4.5 miles	+650' / -550'	2.5 hours				
8		3 miles		30 min				
9				1.5-2 hours				

AVERAGE DAILY MAX/MIN °F												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Cahors	46/34	50/36	55/37	61/43	66/48	73/54	79/57	79/57	73/52	64/46	54/39	48/36
RAINFALL - INCHES												
Cahors	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.7	3.2	3.1	2.0	2.7	2.9	2.6	3.1	3.3

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Our support vehicle will transport the group's luggage, so you only need to carry a daypack (rain gear, sweater, camera, water bottle, etc.). Trip members are always free to skip a day's hike and travel to the next destination in the support vehicle (or remain at the hotel if we are not transferring that day).

### CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the Europe Manager or email us at <a href="europe@wildernesstravel.com">europe@wildernesstravel.com</a>.

### REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

### TOUCAN CLUB

We are very proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business, and have established the Wilderness Travel Toucan Club to reward you for your loyalty. For more information, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at <a href="https://www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan">www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan</a>.

### VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At <a href="https://www.wildernesstravel.com">www.wildernesstravel.com</a>, you can find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and special WT Expeditions that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access a complete library of our detailed itineraries and browse the customized reading guides for each of our adventures.

# WESTYST DATE

MEN'S T-SHIRT



WOMEN'S T-SHIRT



PATAGONIA SYNCHILLA FLEECE VEST PLUS INSULATED CAMELBAK WATER BOTTLE



PATAGONIA R1 PULLOVER

## **Toucan Club Rewards & Discounts**

We are very proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business, and have established the Wilderness Travel Toucan Club to reward you for your loyalty. For more information, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at <a href="https://www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan">www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan</a>.

Here's how it works:

### YOUR FIRST TRIP

As a first-time traveler, you receive a lightweight Wilderness Travel T-shirt and set of durable WT Luggage Tags. On subsequent trips, we're happy to send you a new WT T-shirt and set of Luggage Tags by request.

### YOUR SECOND TRIP

A top quality Wilderness Travel insulated stainless steel water bottle by CamelBak and a cozy Wilderness Travel fleece vest by Patagonia (\$130 value).

### YOUR THIRD TRIP

A versatile Wilderness Travel R-1 pullover by Patagonia (\$140 value).

### YOUR FOURTH TRIP

Discounts on the cost of your trip begin! You receive a 4% discount on the tour cost.

### FIVE AND MORE TRIPS

You receive a 5% discount on the base trip cost. On your sixth trip, you receive a 6% discount, and so on up to your 10th trip. The maximum discount is 10%, with a ceiling of \$500.

Note: Due to special pricing considerations, Toucan Club discounts do not apply to our Private Journeys or Special Events. However, your participation on these trips does count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular adventures.

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

Toucan Club travel discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount, unless otherwise specified. Discounts are deducted from the base trip cost and shown on the final invoice. The base trip cost is the main land/tier cost and does not include single supplement fees, extensions, internal airfare, or other additional charges. Bonus gifts (T-shirts, luggage tags, vests, water bottles, and pullovers) will be mailed approximately three weeks prior to trip departure. Terms and conditions of Toucan Club bonuses are subject to change or cancellation at the discretion of Wilderness Travel, Inc.

# **Travel Notes**















### WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

World's Best Tour Operators: Travel + Leisure, 2022, 11-time winner
Best Travel Specialists in the World: Conde Nast Traveller, 2022, 3 years in a row
Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips: AFAR Magazine, 3 years in a row
Best Adventure Travel Companies: USA Today

Trip of the Year: Outside Magazine, 9-time winner 50 Tours of a Lifetime: National Geographic Traveler, 9 years in a row Best Adventure Travel Companies: National Geographic Adventure, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.