

In 25 Km

4th STOP-OFF: USSON, « MOST BEAUTIFUL VILLAGE OF FRANCE »

Meeting point on the parking for visitors, and then follow the salamander path.



Perched on a volcanic mound and overlooked by a Virgin statue, the village of Usson offers a 360° panorama on the chain of Puy, the Sancy Mountain, the Cézallier, the Cantal mounts and those of Livradois-Forez. This village keeps the memory of Queen Margot, who has been exiled in its fortress, one of the most important of the kingdom, for 19 years.

Following the salamander path, you will discover the village, and be charmed by the greatness of its basalt columns, the power of its old ramparts, the charm of its streets climbing to the church, which is surrounded by old houses, a recreated forge, wine-making houses and artists workshops.

Return to Issoire - 13km



Tourist Office of Issoire Area
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www.issoire-tourisme.com



Tour downloadable freely on
www.cirkwi.com et www.issoire-tourisme.com
Find the Cirkwi Application for tablets and smartphones.



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Remarkable Villages Around Issoire



- The area of Issoire and the Allier valley offers a variety of landscapes; it's a true summary of the geologic and historical wealth of Auvergne. Discover:
- Montpeyroux's village, which is situated on perched sites and testifies of an old type of accommodation adapted to the traditional mixed farming.
 - Usson's village, situated on volcanic mounds, offers an exceptional view on the whole territory.
 - Saint-Floret's village, where the fortified castle is built on granitic headland.
 - And the heart of this region: Issoire, member of the "Most Beautiful Detours of France" network.



LEGEND

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|--|--|---|-----------------|---|---------------------|
|  | Label « Most Beautiful Village of France » |  | Tourist Issoire |  | Religious Buildings |
|  | Label « Most Beautiful Detours of France » |  | Panorama |  | Castles |

START → **1st STOP-OFF : ISSOIRE « MOST BEAUTIFUL DETOUR OF FRANCE»**

👍 Meeting point at the Tourist Office (near the abbey-church) to begin your walk in the city.



Issoire is a member of the “Most beautiful detours of France” association, which gathers almost 100 cities proud of their character and heritage. This membership is comforted by the label of the Flowered City, with a classification of 3 flowers region-wide. The town centre, with its coloured frontages, is to discover walking. The Romanesque abbey-church (masterpiece of the Romanesque art), the Nicolas Pomel’s centre, the René Cassin’s square, the Republic square with its beautiful frontages from the Renaissance and the 18th century, the Clock Tower, the Jean Prouvé area; all these monuments are major stopping places for people who want to combine discovery and culture. On the evening, the city lights up to let people see countless architectural details.



2nd STOP-OFF: SAINT-FLORET

👍 Meeting point in the village centre, and then go back up to Chastel by the road D627.

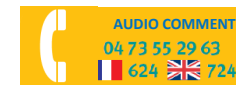


This village raised on rocks is protected by the donjon of a 13th century fortified castle. In the ground floor, you can discover one of the most beautiful Gothic rooms of France, the room of knights, with, on the walls, frescoes recounting the *Tristan and Iseult’s* novel. Then, the second room of the castle offers a panoramic point of view on the donjon. The archaeological site of Chastel overlooks the village with its anthropomorphic graves of the Early Middle Ages. This place is accompanied by an ossuary in a cylindro-conical shape. A Romanesque chapel of the 12th century, with its bell tower, contains treasures, including a “Virgin with a bird” and a fresco of the lord of Saint-Floret.



3rd STOP-OFF: MONTPEYROUX, « MOST BEAUTIFUL VILLAGE OF FRANCE »

👍 Meeting point on the place Joseph Pérol, and then take a walk around the fortified village.



We count more than 1 000 years of History for this village perched on its mount, which shines with its blond arkoses rock, material that have done its richness. Montpeyroux’s name (Rocky Mount) dates back to the end of the 11th century. At the entrance of the old fortified village, you could discover a beautiful porch from the 14th century. A donjon, old from the 13th century, overlooks houses and offers since its crenellated platform an exceptional panorama on the chain of Puy, the Sancy Mountain and also the Cantal mounts.

Let yourself be seduced by the labyrinth of streets and arched passages, whose oldest constructions date back to 1122. Let yourself be charmed by the wine-growing accommodations and by the old middle-class houses, which testify of the wine-making sector prosperity in the 19th century.