

In 6 Km

8th STOP-OFF : ISSOIRE AND THE GARDENS OF HAUTERIVE CASTLE

Meeting point on avenue Ernest d'Hauterive located on heights of Issoire.

These gardens from the 17th and 18th centuries overlook Issoire. They are made of vegetable gardens in terrace, copses with greenery and arbours. You will also discover the wine cellar, the cold room, the bread oven and the press room. This garden is approved "Remarkable Garden" and member of the "Vegetable gardens of France" network. Phone number : 04.73.89.22.77.

The most interesting in Issoire : the town centre with its coloured frontages is to discover walking. The Romanesque abbey church, the Republic place with its beautiful frontages of the Renaissance and the 18th century, the cultural centres (the Tower of Clock, the Jean Prouvé's area and the Nicolas Pomel's centre) are important stop-off points for people who want to mix discovery and culture. Meeting point at the Tourist Office, located next to the abbey church to begin your walk in the city and ask for further information.

In 5 Km

9th STOP-OFF : PARENTIGNAT, THE LITTLE VERSAILLES OF AUVERGNE AND ITS ENGLISH STYLE GARDEN



Constructed between 1707 and 1720 by Anne-François de Lastic on the basis of an old fortified house, the castle of Parentignat still belongs to the same family. Its English-style garden, overlooked by a patio lined with centenarian orange trees and old rose bushes, simply contrasts with the rigour of the court of honour where were reconstituted the six lawn beds which existed in the origin. Already quoted in the 18th century as one of the houses most richly furnished of the province, it is named by Henri Pourrat "the little Versailles of Auvergne". Each generation never stopped enriching the exceptional collection of art objects of the castle, and we still can find an important part of its original furniture.

Return to Le Vernet-La-Varenne - 21km

Tourist Office of Issoire Area
04.73.89.15.90
info@issoire-tourisme.com
www.issoire-tourisme.com



Tour freely downloadable on
www.cirkwi.com et
www.issoire-tourisme.com
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Map : Open street map - IPNS (Printed with care)- PLEASE DO NOT LITTER

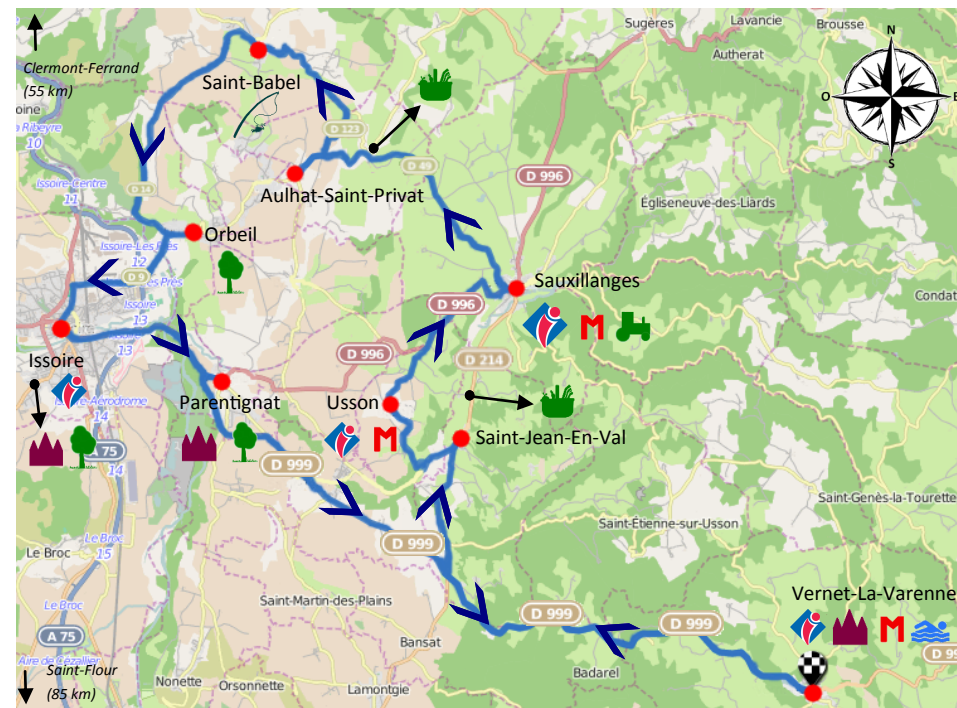


Flavours and Authenticity of Allier Sides and of the Livradois



From the mounts of Livradois to the sides and hills of Allier, this tour offers a rich and varied discovery. Human beings have known how to control these territories in order to adapt them to the traditional mixed farming (sheep and cattle breeding, cereal production).

Along this tour, you will discover local savoir-faire such as fishing, farming and ancient works. You will also enjoy scents and flavours of this territory by taking a walk in botanical gardens and by tasting specialties. Finally, go discover the authenticity and the character of this territory marked by volcanic landscapes and its geology through the amethyst, but also through recreational castles.




LEGEND

- Tourist Office
- Museum
- Castles
- Religious Buildings
- Producer
- Fishing
- Educational Farm
- Garden
- Lake

START

1st STOP-OFF : MONTFORT CASTLE AND THE HOUSE OF AMETHYST

 Meeting point in Le Vernet-la-Varenne, at the East of Issoire and the Allier valley area.

Constructed in the 15th century, this castle is the property of the municipality of Le Vernet-la-Varenne. On the ground floor, you can visit the amethyst museum to discover the history and the nature of this violet rock, also called “bishop’s rock”. Greeks said that it protected from drunkenness and allowed the elevation of the spirit. This museum presents this mineral and its history through a commented exposition, fun activities and accompanied walks. Phone number : 04.73.71.31.32.


The most interesting in Le Vernet-la-Varenne :

Museum “Le petit monde des automates” created by Miss Giraud that makes live the ancient works, in a magical village of moving crib figures in printed clay, with sound and light. Located in the village. Phone number : 04.73.71.27.71.

Lake of Le Vernet-la-Varenne : Lifeguard on duty in July and August from 11 o’clock to 12, and then from 14 o’clock to 18. Phone number : 04.73.71.31.21.

In 15 Km

2nd STOP-OFF : THE FARM OF “ACACIAS” IN SAINT-JEAN-EN-VAL

 Meeting point in “Les Cothards” at the North of Saint-Jean-en-Val (road D214)

Céline Montmory is a dairy ewe farmer and a cheese producer (Tomme, goat cheese, soft cheese, fresh cheese, cheese strainer, sheep yogurts). She enables you to visit her farm and taste her cheese by appointment on the 06.62.16.08.22.

In 4 Km

3rd STOP-OFF : ON THE FOOTSTEPS OF QUEEN MARGOT IN USSON



Perched on a volcanic mound and dominated by a Virgin statue, the village of Usson is classified among the “Most Beautiful Villages of France” and offers a 360° panorama on the chain of Puys, the Sancy, the Cézallier, the Cantal mounts and those of Livradois-Forez. This village also keeps the memory of Queen Margot, who was exiled in her fortress, one of the most important of the kingdom, for 19 years.

The most interesting in Usson:

Scenographic Area : from volcanism to nowadays, discover the main events of Usson’s history, of its rich heritage, of its actual life, with a model of the village and the castle at the 15th century. Located at the tourist office of Usson. Phone number : 06.22.88.56.77.

Complete your discovery with an enjoyable walk called “**the path of Queen Margot**” by following the salamander. Tour available on our website www.sejours-issuire.com section “Activities and adventure” (activités et aventures).

In 5 Km

4th STOP-OFF : SAUXILLANGES, CLUNY’S DAUGHTER



This village of a thousand inhabitants is located near the Eau-Mère River, and was before an important spiritual centre from the 10th century. A monastery was built in 927 and became one of the five eldest daughters of the order of Cluny. Its influence spread on an important part of the Southern Auvergne. During the French Revolution, it was demolished and sold. The association “Pierre-le-Vénéable” saved a part of it in 1987, in particular the Notre-Dame-du-Bois chapel.


The most interesting in Sauxillanges:

The House of Heritage (Maison du Patrimoine), old chapel “Notre-Dame du Bois”, is a clunisian site. This museum offers you the visit of the chapel, the evocation of the history of the priory and of the village of Sauxillanges. Permanent and temporary expositions. Located 4 place de la Liberté. Phone number : 04.76.96.85.10.

The Farm Douce Laine, where you can discover angora goats and wool produced using their fleece, but also donkeys, horses, rabbits and other animals. This pedagogical farm offers you guided visits, weaving demonstrations, ponies’ rides, and the shop at the farm. Located at the castle of the Marine. Phone : 04.76.96.83.31.

In 5 Km

5th STOP-OFF : THE SWEETS OF PECHOT’S CASTLE

 Meeting point in the place called “Péchet” in direction of Aulhat-Saint-Privat (road D49)

Honey, unusual jams, dry biscuits, gingerbread, plants syrup, organic plain flour, cider... Agriculture is their job. Discover also the castle with its 4 medieval and circular towers, and its exceptional sundial.


The most interesting in Aulhat-Saint-Privat : the association of farmers of CHAPTOU (in french EARL) located at 850m walking from the castle of Péchet. The family Archimbaud produces at the farm: meat of pork, veal, and heifer, salted meat (ham, saucisson and conserves). The animals are fed with cereals produced on the farm. More information at the 04.73.71.51.24.

The most interesting in Saint-Babel (at 5 km of Sauxillanges) : Mouche Auvergne Jacques. Jacques Faucher, your guide of fly and tap fishing, invites you to discover the most beautiful fishing sites. Beginners or experienced. Referencing French Federation Instructor Fishing Guide (in French FFMGP). For further information, call the 04.73.71.52.09 or the 06.08.78.44.92 .

 Meeting point at the place called “Le Théron”, at the North of Saint-Babel (road D14).

In 7 Km

7th STOP-OFF : ORBEIL AND THE GARDEN OF SCENTS AND MEDICINAL PLANTS

 Meeting point at the domain of Vort located in the “Perthus” at the North-West of Orbeil(D14).

In the heart of a preserved natural area, the garden of scents invites you for a pleasant moment, and to discover its aromatic herbs and its rose garden. It’s an invitation to calm and relaxation. This garden is approved “Remarkable Gardens”. Phone number : 04.73.55.01.17.