



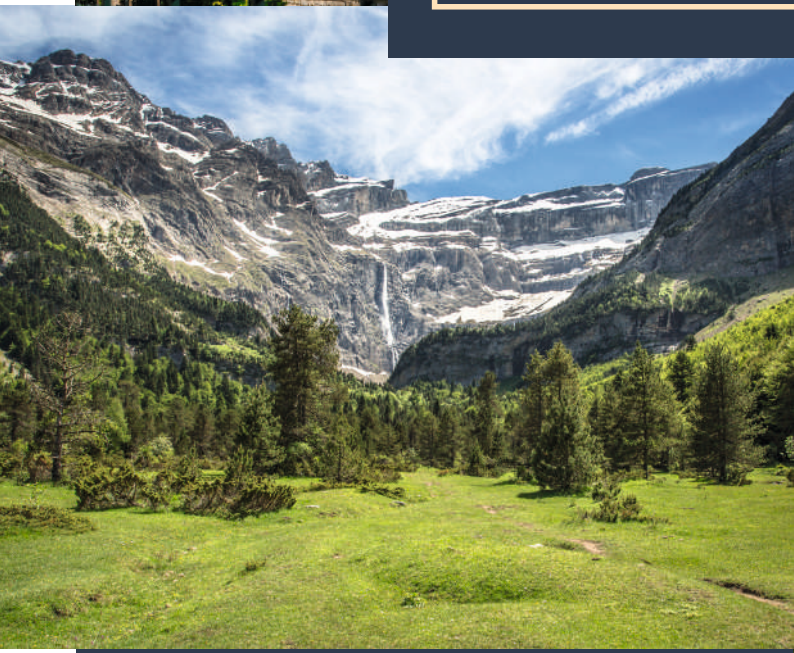
Lourdes
L'INSPIRATRICE



**LOURDES
DESTINATION
PYRENEES**

INDEPENDENT EXPLORING





CONTENTS

The unique experience that you have enjoyed at Lourdes would not be complete without exploring further afield in the beautiful Pyrenean region.

Whether you're travelling in a group, as a couple or *en famille*, in this brochure we suggest various trips you can combine by car to put together your own unforgettable holiday.

BROCHURE

THEME 1: CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL HERITAGE

- 01 - Gouffre d'Esparros cave and the altarpieces in the churches of Haut Adour (*half day or full day*)
- 02 - It's a miracle! The Sanctuary of Notre Dame de Bétharram (*half day*)
- 03 - The Life of Bernadette: Lourdes and Bartrès (*half day*)
- 04 - From Garaison to Escaladieu: spiritual wonders in sacred places (*full day*)
- 05 - The treasures of Val d'Azun and Saint Savin (*full day*)
- 06 - A day's jaunt to Tarbes (*full day*)

THEME 2: GREAT TOURIST SITES

- 01 - Bétharram Caverns: Journey to the centre of the Earth (*half day*)
- 02 - Meet the stars of the show: Pic du Midi - Gavarnie - Cauterets (*3 days*)

THEME 3: LOCAL FLAVOUR

- 01 - Good King Henry's country: Jurançon wines and the Château de Pau (*full day*)

THÈME 4: LOURDES

- 01 - The other side of Lourdes: a lovely day exploring the town on foot (*full day*)




CULTURAL
& SPIRITUAL
HERITAGE
TOUR SHEET

01
THEME 1



Beaudéan - Church of St Martin

© OT Lourdes

**DURATION**

1/2 DAY
OR FULL DAY

**MORNING - 60 KM**

ESPARROS -
SARRANCOLIN

+ AFTERNOON

74 KM OR 67 KM

CAMPAN - VIA
BAGNÈRES-DE-BIGORRE
OR VIA THE COL D'ASPIN
- BEAUDÉAN - ASTE
- POUZAC - LOURDES

ITINERARY**9.00AM**

Leave Lourdes for Esparros

10.00AM

Arrive at Esparros
Visit the Gouffre d'Esparros

11.00AM

Leave for Sarrancolin

11.30AM

Arrive at Sarrancolin
See the Church of St Ebons,
followed by lunch in one of the
village restaurants

1.30PM

Leave for Campan

2.30PM

Arrive at Campan
See the village and church

3.30PM

Arrive at Beaudéan
See the church

4.00PM

Arrive at Asté
Visit La Maison des Ferrère
et du Baroque Pyrénéen
and see the church

5.15 PM

Arrive at Pouzac
See the Church of St Saturnin

6.30PM

Return to Lourdes



Settled in turn by the Romans, Visigoths, Moors and Cathars, the Pyrenees have witnessed a fascinating religious history. And even after Christianity took hold, mythology and folklore remained part of the mix. Churches, chapels and religious art are part of any visit to Hautes-Pyrénées, and this tour is packed with religious interest.

This tour takes you through the little-known countryside of the **Baronnies**, starting with the wonder of nature that is the **Gouffre d'Esparros cavern**, a treasure trove of stalactites, stalagmites, crystals and concretions in a mineral wonderland.

The next stop en route is the village of **Sarrancolin**. Nestling in the heart of this little fortified medieval town is the **Church of St Ebons**, built in the 11th and 12th centuries, boasting a distinctive Greek-cross plan, imposing square bell tower and 15th century choir.

You then continue over the **Col d'Aspin** mountain pass and on via **Arreau**, descending the **Campan Valley**. (Alternatively, you can return to Lourdes via **Bagnères-de-Bigorre**.)

From here, return to Lourdes or complete the full-day tour to see the altarpieces in the churches of Haut Adour.

From its source in the Bigourdan region's **Campan Valley**, the River Adour runs all the way to the River Nive at Bayonne. Like the other Pyrenean valleys, places of Christian worship abound here, with chapels, churches, wayside shrines and mountainside pietàs everywhere you look. As three

generations of sculptors – the famous **Ferrère family** – knew only too well.

At a time when fashionable Paris was a world away from this little Pyrenean idyll, Jean Ferrère, known as Jean I, began to carve sought-after Baroque works of art. In 1647 he built a new studio, from where he produced stunning works to decorate the churches of his valley. Later, his son Marc was to take over. The churches and chapels here, sometimes austere-looking on the outside, are home to countless Ferrère treasures including altarpieces, tabernacles, pulpits and lecterns. Later, Marc's two sons Jean II and Dominique continued the skilled family tradition, innovating by inlaying marble in their exquisitely carved wooden objects and magnificent canopies. This route through the **upper Adour Valley** takes you on a tour of discovery of their work.

Campan, nestling below the slopes of the **Pic du Midi de Bigorre**, is home to three churches. Two are listed as Historical Monuments, and it is the oldest of them that contains the most stunning works by Marc Ferrère. Since 1700, the Church of **St John the Baptist of Campan**, built in the 16th century, has contained a gilded Baroque

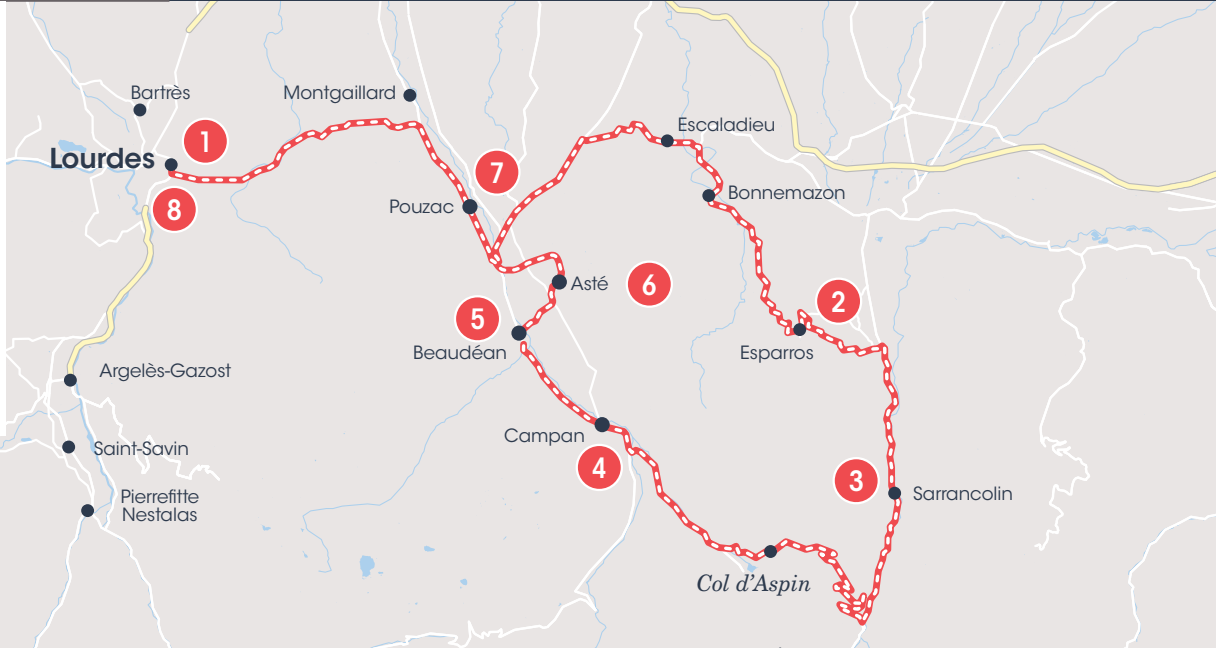
altarpiece with columns decorated with winding vegetation. The triptych is formed by two statues flanking the central painting.

The next stop comes in the neighbouring village of **Beaudéan**. Here, Marc Ferrère's stunning work is in evidence in the 16th century **Church of St Martin**. Further down the valley, in the **village of Asté**, you'll find **La Maison des Ferrère et du Baroque Pyrénéen**, on the site of the family's art studio. Here, you can also see the **Church of St Saturnin**, which contains works by Jean II. In the 18th century this little Pyrenean village was a centre for the arts, home to carpenters, sculptors, gilders and more, artists whose work won fame far beyond the borders of Bigorre. From here you head back to Lourdes, passing through Bagnères-de-Bigorre and stopping off in the village of **Pouzac** to admire the work of the dynasty's founder Jean I in the **Church of St Saturnin**. The monumental 17th century Baroque altarpiece under a wooden vault representing the starry heavens is awe-inspiring.



CULTURAL & SPIRITUAL HERITAGE TOUR SHEET

01
THEME 1



MORNING

Lourdes > Esparros 46 km
Esparros > Sarrancolin 14 km
bus and car parking available in the villages

GOUFFRE D'ESPARROS CAVE

INFORMATION
65130 ESPARROS
Tel.: +33 (0)5 62 39 11 80
Website: gouffre-esparros.fr

Visit duration: 1 hour / Temperature: 13°

OPENING TIMES

- > **1 June to 30 September:** daily, from 10am to 12pm and 1.30pm to 5.30pm.
- > **French school holidays:** from 10am to 12pm and 1.30pm to 5pm.
- > **October, February, March and April:** Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays from 10am to 12pm and 1.30pm to 5pm, Wednesdays from 1.30pm to 5pm.
- > **May:** Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays from 10am to 12pm and 1.30pm to 5.30pm. Every weekday from 1.30pm to 5.30pm.
- > **January:** Saturdays and Sundays from 2pm to 5pm for individuals. Wednesday to Sunday for groups, by arrangement.

Booking is strongly advised all year and essential in June, July and August.

2019 ADMISSION

> **Adults:** €10 > **Children (4-12 years):** €6.50; (13-17 years): €7 > **Families (2 adults and 2 children):** €27 (additional child €6)

SARRANCOLIN

INFORMATION

Church of St Ebons
Open daily from 9am to 6pm

AFTERNOON

Sarrancolin > Campan 43 km
OR Sarrancolin > Arreau > Col d'Aspin
> Campan 36 km
Campan > Beaudéan 2 km
Beaudéan > Asté 2 km
Asté > Pouzac 7 km
Pouzac > Lourdes 20 km

CAMPAN

INFORMATION

> Church of St John the Baptist at Campan
open daily from 10am to 6.30pm

BEAUDÉAN

CHURCH OF ST MARTIN

INFORMATION

The keys are available from **MAISON LARREY**
11 rue Larrey - 65 710 Beaudéan
+33 (0)5 62 91 68 98

OPENING TIMES

- > **14 July to 15 August** open daily except Tuesdays from 2pm to 6pm
- > **1 June to 13 July and 16 August to 31 September** open Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 1pm to 6pm
- > **1 November to 31 May** open Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 1pm to 6pm
- > **Annual closing in October**

ASTÉ

MAISON DES FERRÈRE ET DU BAROQUE PYRÉNÉEN

INFORMATION

16, rue de l'église - 65200 ASTÉ
Tel.: +33 (0)5 62 91 61 28

OPENING TIMES

- > **Open from 1 June to 14 July and 15 August to 30 September** on Wednesdays and Sundays from 1pm to 6pm.
- > **Open from 14 July to 15 August** Wednesday to Sunday, from 1pm to 6pm.

Guided tours of the churches of the Haute Bigorre region are available in July, August and the first two weeks of September from 3pm. Tours are organised by La Maison des Ferrère et du Baroque Pyrénéen.
Bookings and enquiries on +33 (0)5 62 91 61 28
2019 admission: €5.00.

POUZAC

INFORMATION

> Church of St Saturnin
Contact "Maison des frères Ferrère et du baroque Pyrénéen" for admission.
Tel.: +33 (0)5 62 91 61 28



Beaudéan Church

© Maison des frères Ferrère





CULTURAL
& SPIRITUAL
HERITAGE
TOUR SHEET
02
THEME 1



IT'S A MIRACLE! THE
SANCTUARY OF NOTRE
DAME DE BÉTHARRAM

 **DURATION**
1/2 DAY

 **DISTANCE**
32 KM RETURN TRIP
VIA THE PAU ROAD
(D937) TOWARDS
SAINT-PÉ-DE-BIGORRE

ITINERARY



9.00 AM
Leave Lourdes

9.30 AM
Arrive at Lestelle-Bétharram
Visit the Sanctuary and
museum

11.00 AM
Walk: Way of the Cross

12.00 PM
Lunch in one of the village
restaurants or a picnic on
the banks of the Gave

2.30 PM
Return to Lourdes

This half-day tour can be combined with tour No. 3, theme 1, the Life of Bernadette: Lourdes and Bartrès, or tour No. 1, theme 2, Bétharram Caverns: Journey to the centre of the Earth

Sanctuary of Notre Dame de Bétharram

© Shutterstock

Lestelle-Bétharram, on the Gave de Pau River a short drive from Lourdes, is an essential stop on the Pyrenean Foothills route of St James's Way pilgrimage trail (the GR78). It is also a charming village with a history marked by three miracles. And the Marian Sanctuary there is regarded as a masterpiece of Baroque art unrivalled in the Béarn region.

The Sanctuary came about in the 14th century after shepherds minding their flock on the banks of the Gave were attracted by a bright light. Finding a statue of the Virgin Mary in a bush on the riverbank, the villagers resolved to build the Chapel of Our Lady of the Star on the sacred spot. The second miracle took place in 1616. Five peasants from the neighbouring village of Montaut were resting in the fields when a fierce storm blew up over the hill overlooking Lestelle-Bétharram. The large cross recently erected over the Sanctuary was blown over by the gale but miraculously rose up moments later in a dazzling light. This was Our Lady of the Calvary, which became the starting point for a Way of the Cross featuring bas-relief carvings considered to be masterpieces. The last miracle occurred in the 17th century when a little girl was saved from drowning in an eddy in the Gave by the Virgin Mary, who held out a branch to her. In a show of gratitude, the little girl carried a golden branch, or 'beth-arram' ('beautiful branch' in the local patois) to the Virgin of the Sanctuary. The

Baroque chapel there today, paid for by the king of France Louis XIII, was built in the 17th century and is listed as a Historical Monument. The chapel has a beautiful façade depicting the four evangelists with the Virgin Mary in the centre, and the interior is decorated in gold, blue and red and features a number of imposing oil-on-canvas paintings of the Life of Christ, a fine organ case and loft, and a monumental altarpiece.

Next to **Notre Dame de Bétharram** is a monument built in 1924 and dedicated to **St Michel Garicoïts**. This plain-looking chapel has no façade on to the street, no dome and no external bell tower, but inside it is beautifully decorated with stained-glass windows, fine wrought ironwork and an effigy of Father Garicoïts at rest, his hands facing outwards, in a delicately carved gilded bronze reliquary. Father Garicoïts, a priest from a modest Basque family, came to Lestelle-Bétharram in 1825 and founded the **Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus**, which to this day remains an internationally influential

religious group. He met Bernadette Soubirous several times because she regularly went to see him for advice with her parents. Interestingly, both were beatified within a few years of each other.

You continue your visit with the **Musée de Bétharram**. There are four rooms, given over mostly to relics and artefacts from the former monastery here: paintings, mother-of-pearl objects, precious wooden boxes, statues and personal items connected with St Michel Garicoïts.

Before you leave, make sure you walk the calm, peaceful Way of the Cross, built between 1867 and 1873, which takes you up onto the neighbouring hill. This impressive walkway is visible from the road, climbing the hill to end at a shady esplanade. There are 15 stations of the cross, each with a Romanesque-style wayside shrine to the Passion of the Saviour, the finest of which contain bas-relief carvings by the sculptor Joseph-Alexandre Renoir, a relative of the famous artist Auguste Renoir.



CULTURAL & SPIRITUAL HERITAGE TOUR SHEET
02
THEME 1



Sanctuary of Notre Dame de Bétharram

© OT Lourdes



Way of the Cross

© Cumamovi

MORNING

SANCTUARY OF BÉTHARRAM

INFORMATION

Place Saint-Michel Garicoïts - 64800 LESTELLE-BÉTHARRAM

Tel.: +33 (0)6 43 25 48 04

Website: www.betharram.fr

Email: sanctuairesdebetharram@gmail.com

Free admission, accessible to mobility-impaired visitors.

Parking for cars and coaches nearby.

SANCTUARY OPENING HOURS

- > **1st January to 10 February:** Saturday from 2pm to 4.30pm and Sunday from 9.30am to 12.00pm and 2pm to 4.30pm.
- > **11 February to 14 April** from 2pm to 5pm and Sunday from 9.30am to 12.00pm and 2pm to 5.00pm.
- > **15 April to 3 November** from 9.30am to 12pm and 2pm to 5pm.
- > **July and August** from 9.30am to 12.00pm and 2pm to 6.30pm.

VISITS AND DOCUMENTATION

Visitors can watch a 10-minute DVD presentation on the Sanctuary's history and spiritual significance (in French) or an 11-minute DVD (in six languages) (or listen to a 5-minute CD in six languages) about the life of St Michel Garicoït. Other documentation is also available for self-guided visiting.

MUSEUM

INFORMATIONS

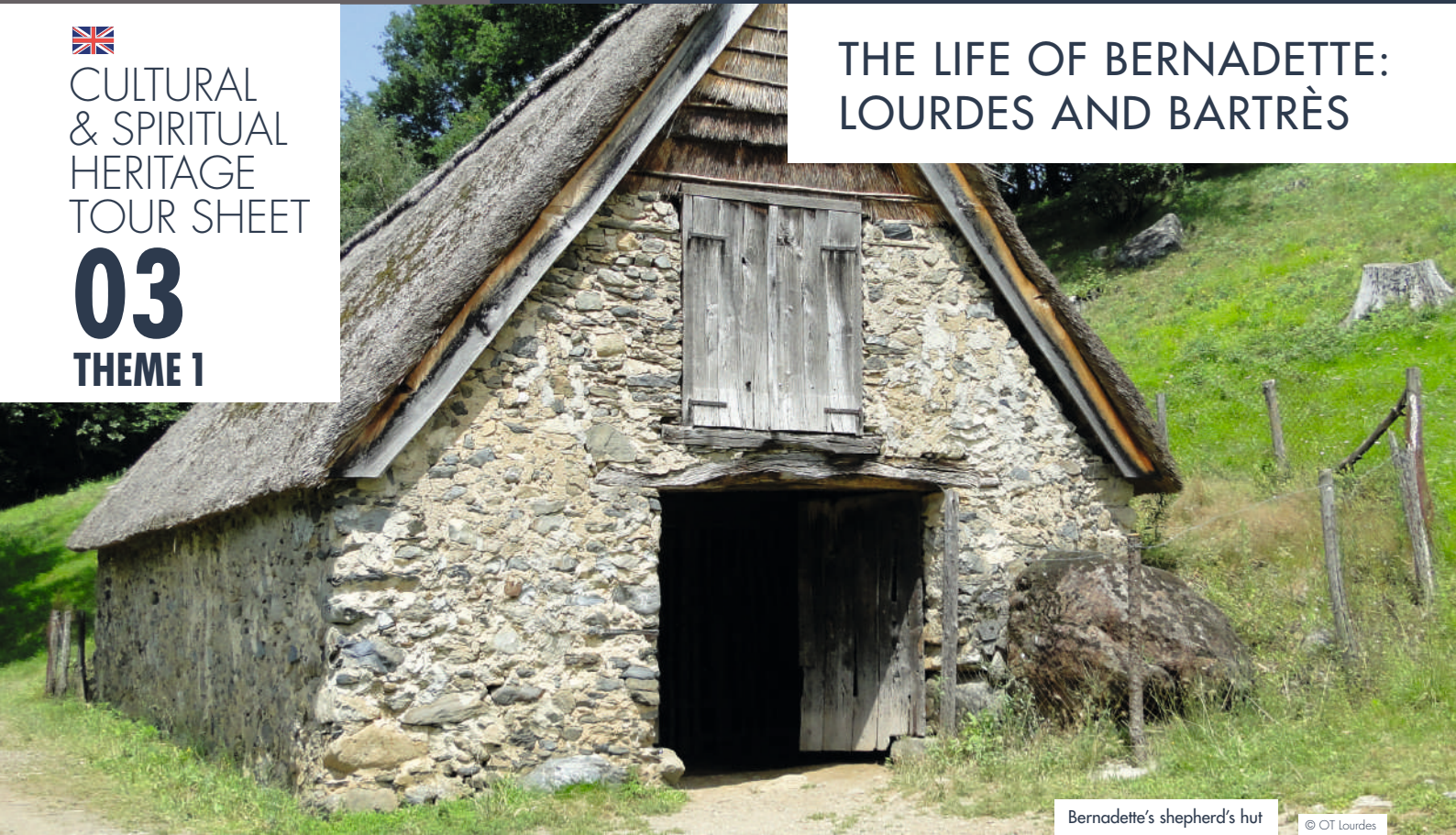
The same opening hours as the Sanctuary, but the museum closes 30 minutes before the Sanctuary.

2019 admission: €2.00

CULTURAL
& SPIRITUAL
HERITAGE
TOUR SHEET

03

THEME 1

THE LIFE OF BERNADETTE:
LOURDES AND BARTRÈS

Bernadette's shepherd's hut

© OT Lourdes



DURATION

1/2 DAY



DISTANCE

6,5 KM

ITINERARY



3.00 PM

Visit Moulin de Boly mill and the Cachot

5.00 PM

Arrive in Bartrès. See the shepherd's hut and village

6.00 PM

End of tour

This half-day tour can be combined with tour No. 2, theme 1, It's a miracle! The Sanctuary of Notre Dame de Bétharram, or tour No. 1, theme 2, Bétharram Caverns: Journey to the centre of the Earth.

Lourdes, the Marian City, and Bartrès, a little village in the surrounding hills, have something in common: they were both once home to Bernadette Soubirous, the daughter of a modest family who became famous all over the world.

Lourdes and Bartrès both play an important part in the history of the young girl to whom the Virgin Mary famously appeared. The story begins in **Lourdes** in the autumn of 1857. With not enough money to continue running the **Moulin de Boly** water mill where they lived, the Soubirous family were forced to move in to the **Cachot**, a former prison, where they lived in just one cold, dark room.

Walking along **the town's oldest streets**, which in those days were inside the town fortifications, you will come to these two old dwellings which provide a fascinating insight into daily life here in the 19th century.

Bernadette, who had previously contracted cholera, suffered from asthma, and the noisy, damp town of Lourdes, huddled around the base of the castle, was not a suitable place for a girl in poor health.

Her father, struggling to find the wherewithal to feed his family, decided to send Bernadette to live with Marie Lagües, who had been her wet nurse and who lived in the little village of Bartrès in the hills a few kilometres away. Marie paid Bernadette to keep house, fetch water and wood and to mind her sheep, and so Bernadette would walk to the family shepherd's hut just outside the village and take the sheep to graze on the hillside at Puyono. The shepherd's hut is still standing today, just outside the village. Stop and take in the view, the same view that Bernadette would also have contemplated.

In Bartrès, Bernadette was not able to go to school or complete her catechism classes, and she was worried that she would not be able to take her First Communion. Unable to read or write at the age of 13, she asked if she could return to Lourdes, where the local

priest agreed to prepare her for her Communion. Who could have guessed that just three weeks later, on 11 February 1858, a «lady dressed in white» would appear to her at Massabielle Grotto.

You can walk to the village of Bartrès from Lourdes on the Chemin de Bernadette trail, which initially follows the footpath to Lannedarré and then joins the GR101 long-distance footpath, a branch of the St James's Way pilgrims' trail from Maubourguet.

The return journey is eight kilometres of fairly easy walking (allow around 2½ hours).




CULTURAL
& SPIRITUAL
HERITAGE
TOUR SHEET
03
THEME 1



*Réserve Naturelle
Régionale du massif
de Pibeste*

Val d'Azun



Interior view of the Cachot

© P. VINCENT



Where Bernadette lived

© OT Lourdes

AFTERNOON

MOULIN DE BOLY IN LOURDES

INFORMATION

12, rue Bernadette Soubirous - 65100 LOURDES

Tel.: +33 (0)5 62 42 16 36

Free

THE CACHOT IN LOURDES

INFORMATION

15, rue des Petits Fossés - 65100 LOURDES

Tel.: +33 (0)5 62 94 51 30

Free

OPENING HOURS OF BOTH SITES

> **1 January to 31 March** open daily from 3pm to 5pm.

Also open from 10am to 12pm and 3pm to 5pm during French school holidays

> **1 April to 27 October** open daily from 9am to 12pm and 2pm to 6pm (Moulin de Boly open until 6.30pm)

> **28 October to 31 December** open daily from 3pm to 5pm. Also open from 10am to 12pm and 3pm to 5pm during French school holidays

BERNADETTE'S SHEPHERD'S HUT

INFORMATION

Route de Lourdes - 65100 BARTRÈS

Accessible on foot via the Chemin de Bernadette (GR101, 4 km from Lourdes)

CHURCH OF BARTRES

INFORMATION

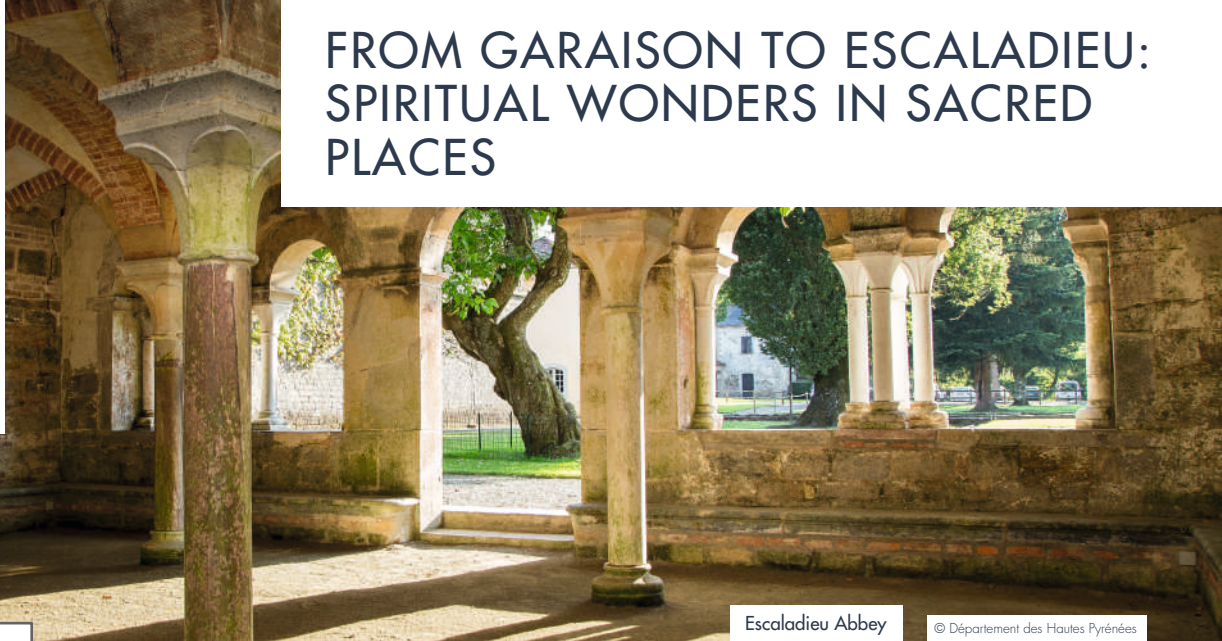
> **April to October** : open daily from 9am to 7pm.

> **November to March** : open daily from 9am to 5pm.



 CULTURAL & SPIRITUAL HERITAGE TOUR SHEET

04
THEME 1



Escaladieu Abbey

© Département des Hautes Pyrénées

 **DURATION**
1 DAY

 **DISTANCE**
135 KM

ITINERARY

9.00 AM
Leave Lourdes

10.00 AM
Arrive at Monléon-Magnoac. Self-guided tour of Our Lady of Garaison (guided tours available by arrangement)

11.30 AM
Leave for Bonnemazon

12.00 PM
Lunch at a restaurant in Bonnemazon

2.10 PM
Arrive at the Cistercian Escaladieu Abbey

3.30 PM
Leave Escaladieu for Montgaillard

4.00 PM
Arrive at the Védère biscuit factory for afternoon tea and shopping

5.00 PM
Leave for Lourdes

5.30 PM
Arrive in Lourdes

Today, you turn your back on the mountains and Lourdes and head out on a pilgrimage to eastern Hautes Pyrénées and the villages of Monléon-Magnoac and Bonnemazon, home to two of the most important sites in the religious history of the Pyrenees.

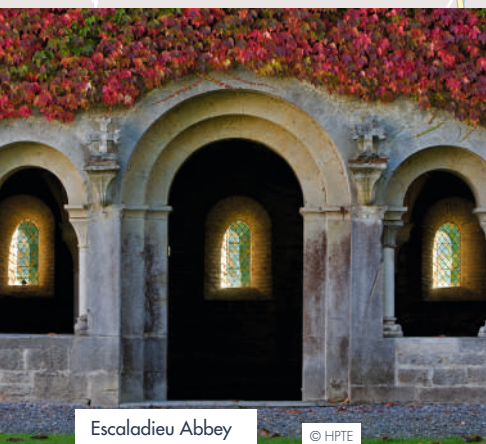
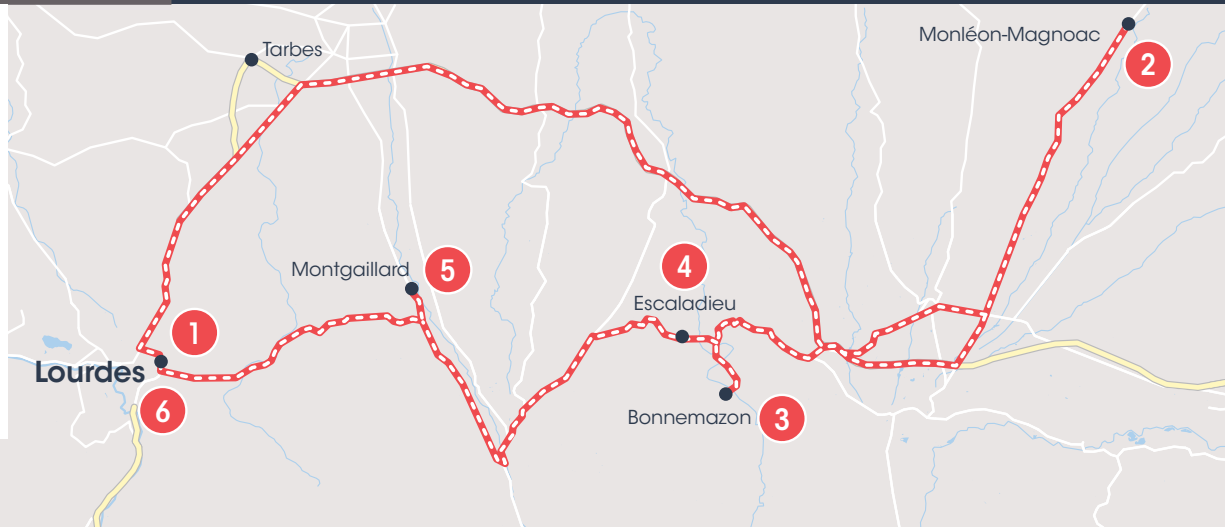
A few kilometres north of Lannemezan there is a tract of sparse heathland that for centuries was regarded as the realm of devils and sorcerers and barely worth grazing sheep on! It was in this bleak place in 1515 that the Virgin Mary appeared, on three occasions, to a poor young shepherdess called Anglèze de Sagazan, imploring her to build a chapel. In 1540 the chapel was built on the very spot where the Virgin had appeared. Promoted by the local bishop and the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, **the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Garaison at Monléon-Magnoac** became an important place of pilgrimage until the French Revolution. After the Revolution, the site was given over mainly to providing a home and education for children. Today, the institution of Our Lady of Garaison has some 600 pupils, and members of the religious community here receive the visitors who come to admire the **Baroque Sanctuary**, including the paintings in the narthex (which forms the transition between the secular exterior and the church interior) and the depictions of the pilgrims journeying along St James's Way.

The Sanctuary is also home to an impressive and well-preserved collection of altarpieces, including one depicting the Flight from Egypt and the altarpiece of the high altar, which features a group of figures from the Old and New Testaments. You then head back south-west to the village of **Bonnemazon**, where you can stop for lunch at a restaurant or perhaps picnic in the grounds of **Escaladieu Abbey**. This site was chosen by a small group of Cistercian monks following their failure to establish an abbey higher up in the mountains, where the climate was too cold and inhospitable. Satisfied with the uninterrupted view of the Pyrenees from this new site, they established their Scala Dei (Ladder of God) on the sunny hillside here in around 1130-1137. An important stopping point on St James's Way to Santiago de Compostela, the powerful abbey was the resting place of the counts of Bigorre from the 12th to the 14th century. Ravaged and ransacked during the Wars of Religion in the 14th century and restored on several occasions, it was finally listed as a Historical Monument in 1939. Soak up the simple, tranquil charm of the abbey's

fine Cistercian architecture, the chapterhouse with Romanesque façade and the delicate-pink and deep-red hues of the Campan marbles adorning the different halls and rooms. Owned by the Hautes-Pyrénées Département since 1997, the abbey regularly hosts fascinating temporary exhibitions. Allow around 50 minutes to return to Lourdes by car. If you're feeling peckish, you can do worse than stop off on the way back at the **Védère biscuit factory** between Bagnères-de-Bigorre and Montgaillard, where you can tuck in to succulent madeleines, tarts and fine biscuits in the unusual surroundings of a vintage railway dining car that ran on the Tarbes - Bagnères-de-Bigorre line until 1970. After having your fill of spirituality, we recommend you fill up on tasty treats...



UK
CULTURAL & SPIRITUAL
HERITAGE
TOUR SHEET
04
THEME 1



Escaladieu Abbey

© HPTE

MORNING**SANCTUARY OF OUR LADY OF GARAISSON****INFORMATION**

65670 - MONLEON MAGNOAC
Tel.: +33(0)5 62 99 49 00
Website: www.garaison.com
Email: garaison@wanadoo.fr

OPENING TIMES

Open all year round from 8am to 11.30am
and 2.30pm to 6.15pm
Self-guided tour (guided tours by arrangement)

AFTERNOON**CISTERCIAN ESCALADIEU ABBEY****INFORMATION**

65130 - BONNEMAZON
Tel.: +33 (0)5 62 39 16 97
Website: www.abbaye-escaladieu.com
Email: abbaye.escaladieu@ha-py.fr
Free parking / picnic area

OPENING TIMES

- > 1 October to 31 March, from Thursday to Friday from 10am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 5pm (group visits by arrangement).
- > 1 April to 30 September, from Monday to Sunday from 10am to 6.15pm (group visits by arrangement).
- > The ticket office and gift shop close 30 minutes before the abbey.

2019 ADMISSION

- > Adults: €5.00 > Children (6-17years): €2.00
- > Students: €1.50 > Families (2 adults and 2 children): €12.00 > Group adult and child price (minimum 10 persons): €3.50



The garden at Our Lady of Garaison

© Notre Dame de Garaison

VÈDÈRE BISCUIT FACTORY**INFORMATION**

423, route de la Gare - 65200 MONTGAILLARD
Tel.: +33 (0)5 62 91 63 33
Website: www.biscuiterievedere.com

OPENING TIMES

- > Monday to Saturday from 9.30am to 12.30pm and 2pm to 7pm
- > Sundays and public holidays: from 3pm to 6.30pm.



Escaladieu Abbey

© HPTE



UK
CULTURAL
& SPIRITUAL
HERITAGE
TOUR SHEET

05
THEME 1



Col du Soulor

© Val d'Azun

THE TREASURES
OF VAL D'AZUN
& SAINT SAVIN

 **DURATION**
1 DAY

 **DISTANCE**
70 KM

ITINERARY



9.00 AM
Leave Lourdes

9.30 AM
Arrens-Marsous - Pouey-Laün Chapel

10.00 AM
Pyrenees National Park Visitor Centre

11.00 AM
Col du Soulor - Walk to Lac de Soum, bird-of-prey spotting and picnic by the lake

3.00 PM
Leave for Saint Savin

3.30 PM
Saint Savin Abbey Church

4.15 PM
Treasure Museum

5.15 PM
Chapel of Our Lady of Piety

6.15 PM
Return to Lourdes

Since the Middle Ages, the villages of Arrens-Marsous and Saint Savin have been a draw for pilgrims making their way along St James's Way to Spain. Here you will find three religious buildings remarkable for their architecture and their fascinating histories, in the magnificent surroundings of the Pyrenees National Park.

MORNING

VAL D'AZUN

Head for **Arrens-Marsous** in Val d'Azun to see one of the region's most beautiful religious buildings: **Pouey-Laün Chapel**, stopping off first at the Maison du Val d'Azun in the village centre to ask for the keys. Built on top of a rock in the Middle Ages, the chapel was used as a place of prayer by the pilgrims lodging at the old hospitalet and those en route to Santiago de Compostela. With a domed bell tower and lavish interior reclaimed from the old Marian sanctuary, the 'golden chapel' (capera daurada) boasts gold-leaf wall decoration and a blue vault representing the starry heavens. Rebuilt in the 17th century following a major earthquake and later used as a barracks du-

ring the French Revolution, the chapel was then sold off as a national asset. The bishop of Tarbes, Mgr Laurence, restored the chapel and tasked the Fathers of Garaison with looking after it. After the First World War, a children's sanatorium and later a medical institute (from 1973 to 2012) was run on the premises of the former novitiate of the Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception. After your visit remember to return the keys, and while you are there it is worth spending time at the **Maison du Val d'Azun et du Parc National des Pyrénées** to see the permanent exhibition on the region's fauna, flora and pastoral farming. Then it's time to breathe the pure mountain air high up on the **Col du Soulor**, made famous by the Tour de France and accessible all year round. Well known

to cyclists, this Pyrenean pass is also home to a cross-country ski resort in winter and is a major European site for migrating birds in summer, making it particularly good for bird watching (**resident birds of prey and migrating species** such as storks) from the two themed nature trails there. You can also walk up to **Lac de Soum** and laze in the sun along with the cows, horses and sheep grazing the summer pastures! Allow around 2 hours there and back for this highly accessible walk.

Why not take a picnic and sit by the lake, drinking in the magnificent views of the Ouzoum and Arrens valleys and Pic du Gabizos mountain?

AFTERNOON

SAINT-SAVIN

After a well-earned lunch break, it's time to head for one of the region's most beautiful villages, **Saint Savin**, in a stunning location on a promontory overlooking the Gaves Valley. Here you will find a historical gem, and a great centre of influence until the French Revolution: **the Abbey Church of Saint Savin**.

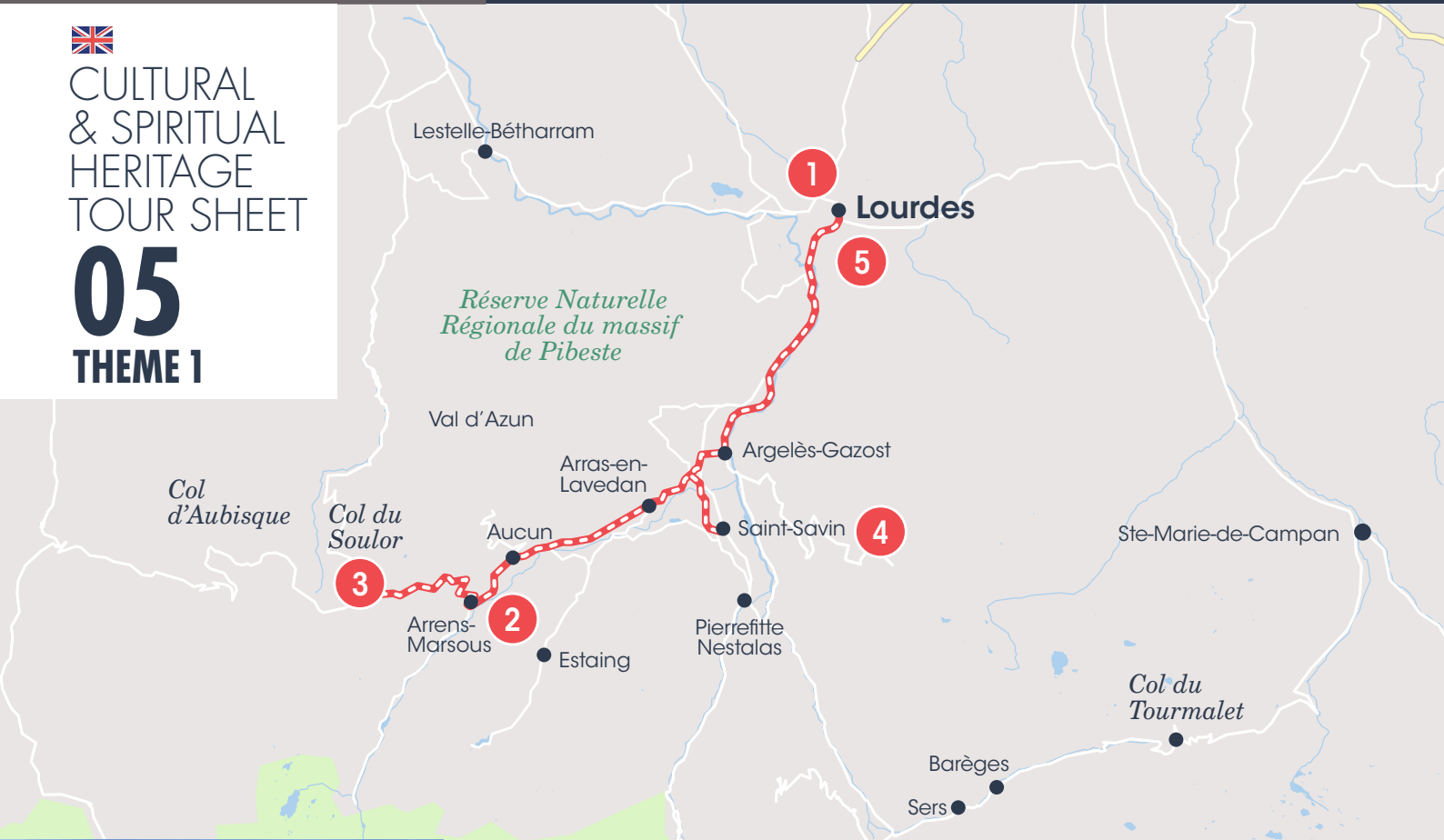
A 13th century masterpiece listed as a Historical Monument in 1840,

this Benedictine monastery is today a parish church containing a fascinating collection that recounts the life of St Savin, a monk of Catalan origin who lived as a hermit for 13 years on the Pouey-Aspé Promontory. Inside, you will see not only St Savin's sarcophagus but also Romanesque fonts, a 14th century wooden statue of Christ, the Renaissance organ dating from 1557 (one of the oldest in France) and wood paintings depicting the miracles performed by the saint and episodes from his life. To see more of

St Savin's heritage, visit the Treasure Museum in the chapterhouse and sacristy, which contains a collection of precious religious artefacts, including statues, monastic books and sacred vessels. Close by the abbey church, standing on the rocky promontory to one side of the village, is **the Chapel of Our Lady of Piety**. It is worth taking a look at this magnificent oratory dating from 1493, listed as a Historical Monument in 1935, which today is mainly used for pilgrimage masses.



 CULTURAL & SPIRITUAL HERITAGE TOUR SHEET
05
THEME 1



Chapel of Piety

© HPTÉ



Saint Savin Abbey Church

© P.Meyer

MORNING

POUEY-LAÛN CHAPEL

INFORMATION

Route d'Aste - 65400 ARRENS-MARSOUS
Tel.: +33 (0)5 62 97 49 49
Website: www.valleesdegavarnie.com
Email: infotourisme@valleesdegavarnie.com

OPENING TIMES

- > **Open all year round**
- > **Free admission** - ask for the keys at Tourist Office

MAISON DU VAL D'AZUN ET DU PARC NATIONAL DES PYRÉNÉES

INFORMATION 65400 ARRENS-MARSOUS Tel.: +33 (0)5 62 97 49 49
Website: www.valleesdegavarnie.com E-mail: infotourisme@valleesdegavarnie.com

OPENING TIMES

- > **French school term time:** Monday to Saturday from 9am to 12pm and 2pm to 5pm.
- > **French winter holidays:** Monday to Saturday from 9am to 12pm and 2pm to 6pm, Sunday from 9am to 12pm.
- > **French summer holidays:** Monday to Saturday from 9am to 12.30pm and 2pm to 6.30pm, Sunday from 9am to 12.30pm.

AFTERNOON

SAINT SAVIN ABBEY CHURCH

INFORMATION

9, place du castet - 65400 SAINT-SAVIN
Tel.: +33 (0)5 62 97 02 23
Email: presbytere3@wanadoo.fr
Parking for cars and coaches nearby.

OPENING TIMES

- > **November to March** from 9am to 5pm
- > **April to October** from 9am to 7pm
- > **Treasure Museum** open April to October, from 2.30pm to 6pm.
- > **2019 admission:** €2.50/person.
- > **Free for under 16**

CHAPEL OF OUR LADY OF PIETY

INFORMATION

65400 - SAINT-SAVIN

OPENING TIMES

- > **29 April to 13 July and 21 August to 15 October:** Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays: 2.30pm to 6pm.
- > **14 July to 20 August:** daily from 2.30pm to 6pm.




CULTURAL
& SPIRITUAL
HERITAGE
TOUR SHEET

06
THEME 1



Massey Gardens

© Mairie de Tarbes

A DAY'S JAUNT
TO TARBES

 **DURATION**
1 DAY

 **DISTANCE**
48 KM

ITINERARY



9.00 AM
Leave Lourdes

9.30 AM
*Arrive in Ibos
See the collegiate church*

10.30 AM
Leave for Tarbes

11.00 AM
*See the Cathedral
of Our Lady of the Seat*

12.00 PM
Lunch in the city centre

1.30 PM
*Afternoon in Massey Gardens
Visit the Hussars military
heritage museum and
orangery*

4.00 PM
Visit the National Stud

5.30 PM
*Time for shopping in the city
centre*

7.00 PM
Return to Lourdes

Tarbes was established by the Romans and became the administrative capital of the Hautes-Pyrénées Département in 1800. In 1806, Napoleon I founded the National Stud here, where the local Tarbais horse was crossed to create the Anglo-Arabian breed. In 1859 the railway from Paris reached Tarbes, continuing to Lourdes a few years later which helped to boost pilgrim numbers there.

Before exploring Tarbes, stop off in the village of **Ibos** (one of the largest towns in the Bigorre region in the Middle Ages) to see the **magnificent collegiate church** there, built by the king of France, Philippe VI of Valois. First, you will have to call in at the Mairie (town hall) to ask for the keys to this imposing Gothic building. Listed as a Historical Monument in 1862, the collegiate church contains a pulpit by Marc Ferrère and fine 17th and 18th century furniture. Interestingly, the locals say that the Greenwich Meridian passes directly through the bell tower...

On leaving Ibos it will take you less than ten minutes by car to get to **Tarbes**, where your first destination is the **Cathedral of Our Lady of the Seat** (the seat being that of the bishop). Built in the 12th century on a site that was first Gallo-Roman and later a Merovingian cemetery, this Romanesque building has been modified over the centuries. The Gothic nave was added in the 14th century and a number of magnificent features, including the vast Baroque marble canopy above the high altar, were added

in the 18th century. Don't leave without looking in at the Chapel of the Holy Virgin, where the will and testament of king Louis XVI is carved on a marble wall.

For lunch, there is a wide choice of restaurants in the city centre. We recommend you try some of the local specialities, such as haricots tarbais beans and Bigorre Noir pork. Bon appétit!

After lunch, why not take a stroll around the magnificent **Massey Gardens** to help your food go down? Officially recognised as a 'Jardin Remarquable', this 11-hectare haven of peace and quiet contains some real treasures: a 15th century 40-arch cloister from Saint-Sever-de-Rustan Abbey, a bandstand, an orangery, and a beautiful old house built in the Moorish style with a striking observation tower, which is home to the **Musée Massey**.

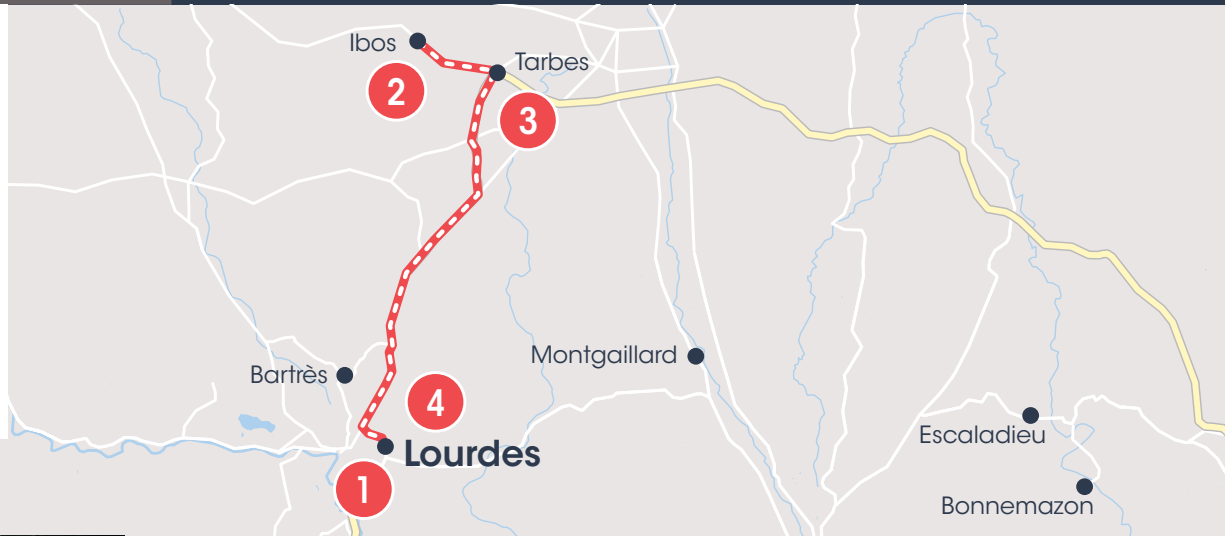
This recently completely refurbished museum contains two collections: one of Fine Arts, with a display of European paintings from the 15th to the 20th century, and the other recounting the history of

the Hussars, the light cavalry of Hungarian origin. The latter features a series of historical sections that take you through the timeline of Hussars regiments in France and around the world (including some impressive uniforms on display), which forged the reputation of this fighting force over more than four centuries.

Before you indulge in a city-centre shopping spree, we highly recommend a visit to the **National Stud**, Tarbes' iconic 8-hectare showpiece in the middle of the city. This Historical Monument was originally built for the cavalry. It is worth going on a guided tour to learn about the history of the cavalry through the historical collections, which include carriages, antique saddles and tack, and also the famous Anglo-Arabian horse bred in **Tarbes**. You can also visit the **Maison du Cheval** built by Gustave Eiffel (of Tower fame), which includes a section about the image of the horse in Occitania.

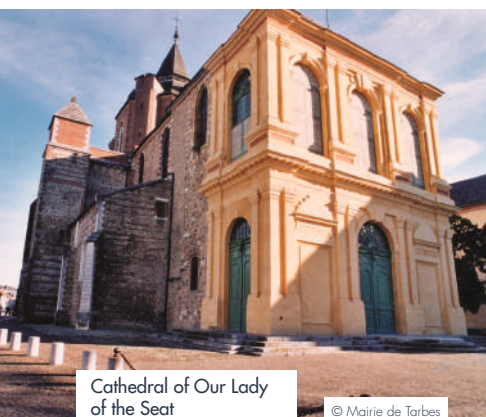


🇬🇧
CULTURAL
& SPIRITUAL
HERITAGE
TOUR SHEET
06
THEME 1



International
Hussars Museum

© Mairie de Tarbes



Cathedral of Our Lady
of the Seat

© Mairie de Tarbes

MORNING**IBOS COLLEGIATE CHURCH** **OPENING TIMES**

- > **Monday to Friday** from 8am to 12pm and 1.15pm to 6pm (you will need proof of identity to borrow the keys from the secretary's office at the Mairie (town hall)).
- > **Guided tours available** for groups
- > Email: contact@collegiale-ibos.fr

CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF THE SEAT **INFORMATION**

5, place Général de Gaulle - 65000 TARBES
Open Monday to Sunday, from 7am to 7pm.
Admission: free

AFTERNOON**MASSEY GARDENS** **INFORMATION**

Rue Massey - 65000 TARBES
Free admission

**MUSÉE MASSEY, INTERNATIONAL
HUSSARS MUSEUM** **INFORMATION**

Au sein du Jardin Massey
Rue Achille Jubinal - 65000 TARBES
Tel.: +33 (0)5 62 44 36 95
Website: www.musee-massey.com
Email: publics.musees@mairie-tarbes.fr

OPENING TIMES

- > **April to October** from 10am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 7pm.
- > **October to April** from 10am to 12pm and 2pm to 5pm.

2019 ADMISSION

- > **Full price:** €5.00.
- > **Groups** of more than 10: €2.50/person.
- > **Guided tours** available for groups of up to 25: €25.00/tour.
- > **Tours in French, English and Spanish** by arrangement.
- > **Duration:** 1 hour 30 min.

THE ORANGERY **INFORMATION**

Au sein du Jardin Massey
Open daily, from 10am to 12pm and 2.15pm to 4.45pm

NATIONAL STUd **INFORMATION**

Chemin Mauhourat - 65000 TARBES
Tel.: +33 (0)6 32 44 87 13
Email: raoul.mur@wanadoo.fr

OPENING TIMES

- > **Open all year round, guided tours** by arrangement with Raoul on +33 (0)6 32 44 87 13.
- > **Guided tours** on Wednesdays at 10.30am, 2.30pm and 4pm and on Saturdays and Sundays at 2.30pm and 4pm.
- > **During French school holidays, additional guided tours** on Tuesdays and Fridays at 10.30am, 2.30pm and 4.00pm.
- > **Duration:** 1 hour 15 min.

2019 ADMISSION

- > **Adults:** €7.00
- > **Children** (aged 3 to 12): €2.00
- > **Students, riders** (FFE members), groups (of more than 15): €5.00

GREAT TOURIST
SITES TOUR
SHEET01
THEME 2BETHARRAM CAVERNS: JOURNEY
TO THE CENTRE OF THE EARTH

Bétharram Caverns

© Grottes de Bétharram

 DURATION

1/2 DAY

 DISTANCE 38KMRETURN TRIP
FOLLOWING THE PAU
ROAD (D937) TO THE
CAVERNS AND THEN
THE D512 TO SAINT-
PÉ-DE-BIGORRE

This is a great option to keep up your sleeve for a rainy day (or when it's just too hot outdoors!). Bétharram Caverns have a reputation for being the most beautiful in Europe and these vast caves with such a variety of natural features will amaze you and provide a fascinating insight into the geology of this part of the Pyrenees.

At the Caverns car park (just a 20-minute drive from Lourdes), you hop on the shuttle that takes you to the entrance, where you are met by your guide. The tour of the caverns covers 2.8 km, with an impressive 80-metre descent along the way.

It's difficult to tell just how big the first cavern is: the play of light and shadow makes it almost impossible to tell where this one ends and the next begins and how far away the jumble of stalactites, curtains and chasms really are. Opposite you is the main chasm, plunging down to the lowest level open to the public. See that long flight of steps? Gird yourself, it's a long way down! But first, you explore to the end of the first cavern. The 'sponge' ceiling will catch

your eye: follow the endlessly branching concretions, formed by the water slowly leaving stone deposits over millennia. It's then that you notice the vast scale of geology in action in these caves. **Stage one:** the perfectly aligned pairs of stalactites and stalagmites, all set to join up to form a column (you'll just have to wait a few million years!).

Stage two: the complete columns, leading to the water-nymph pools on several levels and the Hall of Chandeliers.

Does the next bit look familiar? You're back where you started, looking out into the chasm. Now it's time to descend those steps... You follow the sound of running water and pass a fault line, where

you could swear the rocks are hanging high above your head! At this point you are actually crossing the boundary between the Pyrénées-Atlantiques and Hautes Pyrénées Départements. Next, you board the boat for the ride on the underground lake. For the last part of the tour, a little train is waiting (the tunnel for it was dug between 1913 and 1924), saving you the hike up the 250 steps back to the top!

You exit into a glass-and-concrete Art Deco hall built in 1924, where you can get a coffee and buy souvenirs. Outside, there is a covered picnic area for those who have brought their lunch with them. Alternatively, you might like to go for lunch at one of the two restaurants near the Caverns.

This half-day tour can be combined with tour No. 2, theme 1, It's a miracle! The Sanctuary of Notre Dame de Bétharram, or tour No. 3, the Life of Bernadette: Lourdes and Bartrès



GREAT TOURIST
SITES TOUR
SHEET

01
THEME 2



Bétharram Caverns

© Grottes de Bétharram



The Bell

© Grottes de Bétharram



The Great Hall

© Grottes de Bétharram

MORNING

BÉTHARRAM CAVERNS

INFORMATION

Chemin des grottes - 65270 SAINT-PÉ DE BIGORRE
Tel.: +33 (0)5 62 41 80 04
Website: www.betharram.com
Email: grottes@betharram.com
Parking for cars and coaches

CAVERNS OPENING HOURS

- > **February to March:** Monday to Thursday (one tour at 2.30pm and one tour at 4pm) and Friday (one tour at 2.30pm)
- > **March to October:** daily from 9am to 12pm and 1.30pm to 5.30pm (closing at 5pm in September and October)
- > **July and August:** daily from 9am to 6pm, non stop
- > **Visit duration:** 1 hr 20 min - **temperature:** 14°C
- > **Guided tours** in 9 languages.

2019 ADMISSION

- > **Individuals:** €15.00/adult - €9.50/child aged 4 to 12.
- > **Groups of 10 to 20 adults:** €12.50/adult - €8.00/child aged 4 to 12.
- > **Groups of minimum 20 adults:** €12.50/adult - €8.00/child aged 4 to 12, one free place per 20 paying visitors.
- > **Group tours by arrangement only.**

TOP TIP

In July and August the Caverns are less busy in the morning.



🇬🇧
GREAT TOURIST
SITES TOUR
SHEET

02
THEME 2



Pic du Midi © P. COMPÈRE

> **DAY 1 ITINERARY - 94 KM** 

9.00 AM - Leave Lourdes for La Mongie **10.00 AM** - Arrive in La Mongie and ascent in the Pic du Midi Cable Car **12.00 PM** - Lunch on the summit **2.30 PM** - Return to La Mongie

> **DAY 2 ITINERARY - 98 KM**

9.00 AM - Leave Lourdes for Gavarnie **10.15 AM** - Arrive at the village and set off on the walk **12.00 PM** - Picnic at the foot of the Cirque or lunch at a nearby eatery **4.00 PM** - Return to the village

> **DAY 3 ITINERARY - 76 KM**

9.00 AM - Leave for Cauterets **10.00 AM** - Arrive at Pont d'Espagne and set off on the walk to Lac de Gaube. **12.00 PM** - Picnic by the lake or lunch at one of the lakeside eateries **3.00 PM** - Return to the village of Cauterets, with time to relax at the Bains du Rocher.

How about three days of breathtaking scenery and endless views? From the rushing waterfalls of Pont d'Espagne to the giant ring of rock at Gavarnie, and not forgetting the majestic summit of the Pic du Midi, come with us to meet the stars of Nature's show here – the Great Tourist Sites of Hautes Pyrénées.

DAY 1

PIC DU MIDI

To make the most of your first day on top of the Pyrenees, leave Lourdes nice and early and head for **Bagnères-de-Bigorre** then **La Mongie** ski resort. You won't forget the **cable car ride** to the top in a hurry! As you are whisked up the mountainside, spare a thought for the Herculean effort required to build the cable car and carry up the materials to build the summit observatories, transported by men and mules from 1870 onwards. Today you ascend the 1,000 metres altitude in less than 15 minutes in one of the two cable car cabins to the Pic du Midi panoramic observation terrace. From there you can see

for miles, over to the Brèche de Roland, and the 'bear's head' of the Pic du Midi d'Ossau in the west. The summit museum is worth visiting, and remember to book your place on the voyage among the stars in Europe's highest planetarium (recently opened in the Coupole Baillaud, which holds an important place in France's scientific history). You can also relive the Pic du Midi observatory's history through augmented reality using an Histopad. For thrill seekers, come and live a dizzying experience with the "pontoon in the sky". Lunch on a selection of local dishes at almost 3,000 metres altitude, or better still, stay the night! Back at the bottom of the mountain, before returning to Lourdes, make a short detour to see the **little chapel at La Mongie**, one of the few places of worship still going in this busy ski resort. The stone walls, slate roof and unassuming interior of the recently renovated Our Lady of the Snows (built in 1954) are worth a look.

DAY 2

CIRQUE DE GAVARNIE

On day two you become acquainted with a stone giant, Victor Hugo's «colossus of nature» and an international star now it has been listed as a **Unesco World Heritage site: the Cirque de Gavarnie**. And you can get up close and personal with this wonder, carved out by the glacier that created the valley here. From the far end of the **village of Gavarnie** you set off on a three-hour walk (there and back) to the foot of this mighty cirque. Easy to start with, the route becomes more challenging towards the end, but your hard work is doubly rewarded by the sight that greets you at the foot of the monumental waterfall (Europe's biggest!). And if you're not up to walk, it's possible to get there on a donkey or pony. Back in the village, reward yourself with a drink on a sunny café terrace while admiring the view, then trot off to see the **Church of St John the Baptist**, a Historical Monument and **Unesco World Heritage Site** as part of the 'Routes of Santiago de Compostela'. The former chapel of a hospice founded in the 12th century by the Knights of St John of

MEET THE STARS OF THE
SHOW: PIC DU MIDI -
GAVARNIE - CAUTERETS

Jerusalem to house and care for travellers, this church has been rebuilt and patched up countless times. Inside you'll find gems like the Baroque altarpiece with Solomon columns decorated with scallop shells and, in the Romanesque north chapel a 14th century polychrome wood statue of Notre Dame du Bon Port, flanked by two 17th century statuettes of pilgrims. Next, return to your car to follow the road down to **Luz-St Sauveur**. Before you get to the village, stop off at **Pont Napoléon** to admire this bridge that appears to hang in thin air above the River Gave... don't look down! The column surmounted by the imperial eagle tells you that this bridge was built on the orders of Napoleon III. The winding back streets of Luz are also worth taking time out to explore, especially when you come to the 11th century **fortified Church of the Knights Templar**.

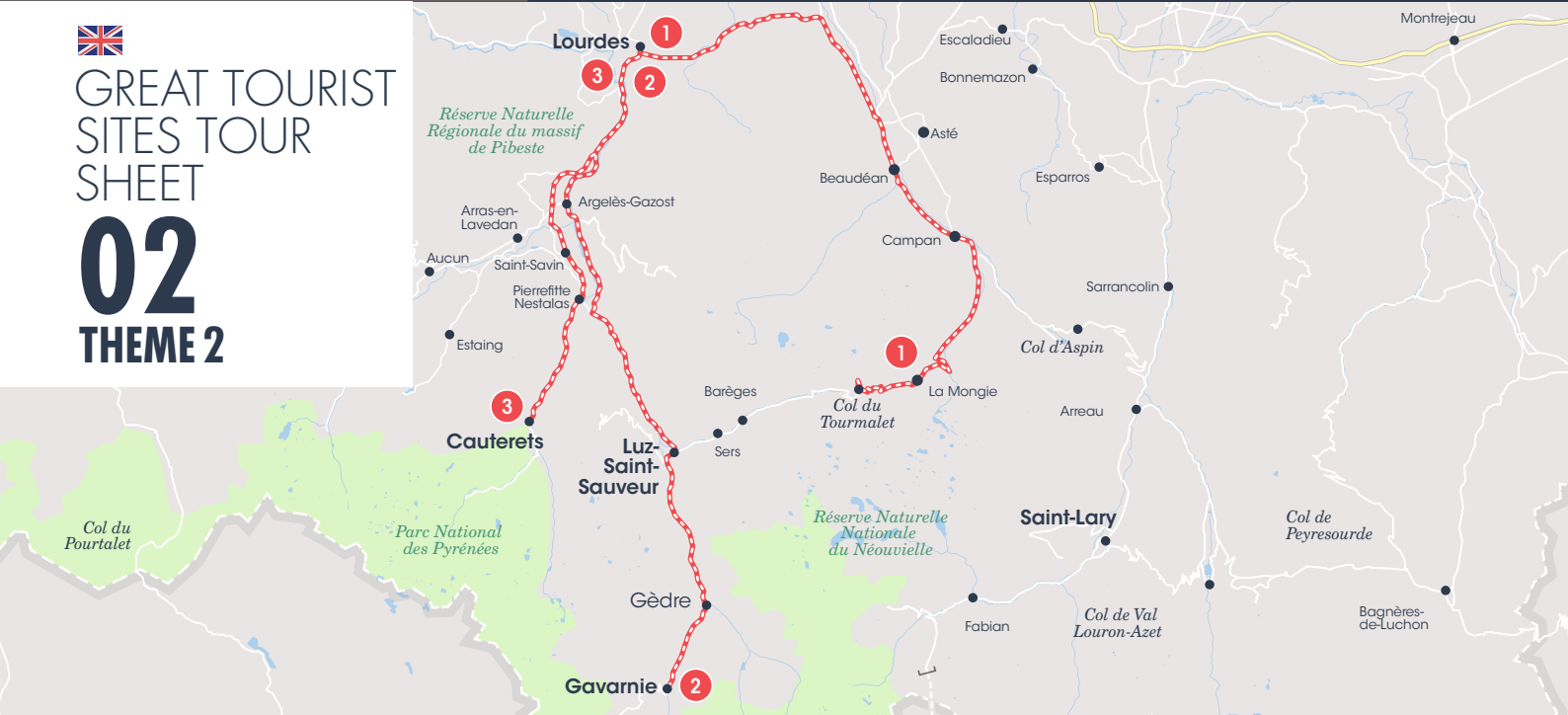
DAY 3

CAUTERETS - PONT D'ESPAGNE

Today you follow in the footsteps of authors Georges Sand and Victor Hugo and other great (and lesser-known) figures of 19th century Parisian society, to **Cauterets** and the **famous Pont d'Espagne**, in the heart of the **Pyrenees National Park**. The bridge is so called because it is the last bridge you cross (on foot only) before arriving at the Spanish border. There's a lovely walk up to the radiant Lac de Gaube at the foot of the mighty peak of Vignemale (around three hours there and back). It's a stiff climb, but there's an easy way up via the gondola and chairlift. Picnic by the lake or enjoy lunch at one of the lakeside eateries and drink in the beauty of the surrounding scenery. Don't head back down the valley before taking a stroll through the **village of Cauterets** to admire the architecture of this spa resort, where taking the waters was the height of fashion in the 19th century. The 'royalty' of the Napoleonic area and many of their illustrious contemporaries influenced the recognisable Belle Époque architecture that parades itself all around. Why not experience for yourself the healing properties of the naturally hot water that made Cauterets' name? Try the **Bains du Rocher**, where you can soak in the magnificent 200m² outdoor pool.



GREAT TOURIST SITES TOUR SHEET

02
THEME 2

DAY 1

DIRECTIONS

> Lourdes > La Mongie via Bagnères-de-Bigorre: 48 km > Lourdes > La Mongie via the Col du Tourmalet: 54 km (col open only from mid-June to mid-October or other autumn date depending on snow conditions. Up-to-date access information from the Tourist Office).
> Free car and coach parking.

PIC DU MIDI DE BIGORRE

INFORMATION

Rue Pierre Lanmy de la Chapelle
65200 LA MONGIE
Tel.: +33 (0)8 25 00 28 77 or
+33 (0)5 62 56 70 01 for group bookings.
Website: www.picdumidi.com

OPENING TIMES

> January, February and March: open daily
> Mid-April and May: closed
> June, July, August, September and October: open daily
> November and December: closed

Departures approx. every 15 minutes

> First departure: La Mongie Cable Car at 9.30am
> Last departure: La Mongie Cable Car at 4pm (low season) or 5.00pm (high season)
> Last return from Pic du Midi summit: 5pm (low season) - 7.30pm (high season)

2019 ADMISSION

Adults: €40.00
Children (under 12): €24.50

Afternoon add-on: Chapel of Our Lady of the Snows. Optional circuit to the Col du Tourmalet, or skiing in winter. Open all year round.

DAY 2

DIRECTIONS

> Lourdes > Gavarnie: 50 km
> Fee charged for car and coach parking from 1 May to 31 October inclusive. €5.00 per car for 24 hours in 2019.

Church of St John the Baptist in Gavarnie: open daily from 9am to 6pm.

Church of the Knights Templar in Luz-St Sauveur: open daily.

DAY 3

DIRECTIONS

> Lourdes > Pont d'Espagne: 39 km
> Parking for cars (€7 per day in 2019) and coaches (fee charged) in summer until mid-September.

PONT D'ESPAGNE

INFORMATION

Tel.: +33 (0)5 62 92 52 19
Website: www.cauterets.com
Email: accueil@cauterets-lys.com

2019 ADMISSION

> Waterfall Panorama Pass from €5.50 per person (incl. parking, gondola and Pont d'Espagne).
> Lac de Gaube Pass from €12.50 per person (incl. parking, gondola and chairlift).

BAINS DU ROCHER

INFORMATION

Avenue du docteur Domer - 65110 CAUTERETS
Tel.: +33 (0)5 62 92 14 20
Website: www.bains-rocher.fr
Email: accueil@bain-rocher.fr

OPENING TIMES

> 22 December to 21 April: open from 10am to 7.30pm (open until 8.30pm during French school holidays)
> 22 April to 5 July: open from 2pm to 7.30pm on weekdays and from 10am to 7.30pm on weekends and public holidays
> July and August: open from 10am to 7.30pm
> September and October: open from 2pm to 7.30pm on weekdays and from 10am to 7.30pm on weekends and public holidays
> 1 to 21 December: open from 2pm to 7.30pm on weekdays and from 10am to 7.30pm on weekends and public holidays

2019 ADMISSION

2-hour pass, adults: €18.50
2-hour pass, children (4-14 yrs): €9.50
2-hour pass, teens (15-17 yrs): €16.50

Add-on after 5pm: city-centre shopping for berlingot sweets, ewe's cheese, bilberry jam and more...



Cable car

© E. MARTIN



LOCAL
FLAVOUR
TOUR SHEET
01
THEME 3

GOOD KING HENRY'S COUNTRY: JURANÇON WINES AND THE CHÂTEAU DE PAU



The mighty Pyrenees

© S.Torres

 **DURATION**
1 DAY

 **DISTANCE**
86 KM

ITINERARY



9.00 AM
Leave Lourdes

9.50 AM
Arrive at Cave de Gan Jurançon

10.00 AM
Tour starts

11.30 AM
Tour ends, wine tasting and
wine-buying opportunity

11.45 AM
Leave for Pau, château district

12.15 PM
Lunch

2.00 PM
Tour of the château

3.30 PM
Time in the grounds

4.00 PM
Exploring the city centre
and shopping

6.00 PM
Return to Lourdes

This is a day-long exploration of the Béarn region, home to three AOC wine appellations, the most famous of which is Jurançon, known to have been produced here as far back as the 10th century. Legend has it that when Henry IV was baptised, the priest placed a few drops of Jurançon on his lips... This tour takes in the Jurançon wines and the beautiful city of Pau, certified a Town of Art and History for the castle district where Henry IV was born.

MORNING

CAVE DE GAN JURANÇON

Fifty minutes from Lourdes is a little village called **Gan**. Over the years, the **Cave de Gan Jurançon** winery, with views across to the Pic du Midi d'Ossau and the line of the Pyrenees, has become the third most visited company in France. It is a cooperative of nearly 300 wine growers who produce sweet and dry appellation

d'origine contrôlée white wines and Béarn reds and rosés. On the tour, wine buffs gain a fascinating insight into the whole winemaking process, from delivery of the freshly picked grapes to bottling, and including the grape presses, the fermentation vats, the semi-underground ageing cellar and how its construction revealed 4th century Gallo-Roman mosaics, and the bottling centre. To round off the tour, the guide takes you to the shop for a tasting of the wines

of your choice, accompanied by local produce.

Once you have tasted the wine of king Henry IV, you'll want to visit his **Château in Pau**, just 8 minutes away. We heartily recommend that you stop off for lunch beforehand in the picturesque castle district to experience the famous regional dish *poule au pot!*

AFTERNOON

CHATEAU DE PAU

Right in the centre of the city, with magnificent views of the Pyrenees, the **Château de Pau**, built on a rocky spur overlooking the River Gave, is the birthplace of Henry IV, King of France and Navarre. Spanning a history of more than 1,000 years, this castle is today a national museum. In regal surroundings, history buffs can learn all about the history of the Béarn region through a host of artefacts and works of art such as the series of 17th and 18th century tapestries

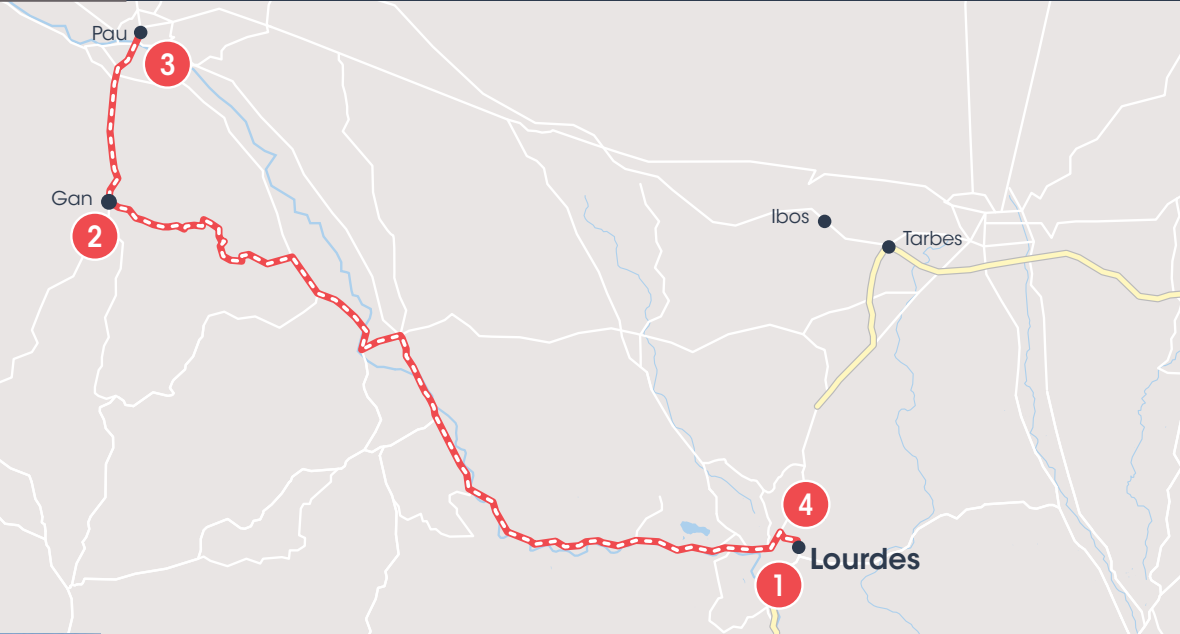
(most were made at the famous Gobelins Manufactory in Paris), and the fascinating collections of historical items. You see the opulently decorated royal apartments and learn about the day-to-day running of the palace, plus objects to do with the life of Henry IV: the famous turtle shell that was his cradle and a host of paintings and sculptures of the great king.

After the tour, get some fresh air in the **château grounds**, covering a vast area of 22 hectares and certified a Natura 2000 nature area. It's a haven of greenery in

the city, where you can play the game of spotting the commonest flower variety. In the late afternoon, why not explore the city centre and treat yourself to some gourmet local specialities or fashion and decorative items from the big-name stores? And don't forget to stop for a drink on a café terrace or take a stroll along the famous **Boulevard des Pyrénées**, from where there is a stunning panoramic view of the Pyrenees which the poet Lamartine described as «affording the finest view on land, as Naples affords the finest view out to sea».



LOCAL
FLAVOUR
TOUR SHEET
01
THEME 3



Château de Pau

© Pau Pyrénées Tourisme



Jurançon vineyard

© S. TORRES

MORNING**THE WINE THAT HENRY IV DRANK:
CAVE DE GAN JURANÇON****INFORMATION**

53, avenue Henri IV - 64290 GAN
Tel.: +33 (0)5 59 21 57 03
Website: www.cavedejurancon.com

Email: cave@cavedejurancon.com

- > **Languages:** English and Spanish
- > **Groups:** advance booking recommended
- > **Admission:** free

OPENING TIMES

- > **All year round** Monday to Saturday, from 8am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 6.30pm.
- > **2 June to 1 September** Monday to Saturday from 8am to 7.30pm and Sundays from 9.30am to 12.30pm and 2.30pm to 6pm.
- > **December** Monday to Saturday from 8.00am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 7.00pm.
- > **Wine cellar tours** Monday to Saturday from 9am to 11am and 2pm to 5pm.
- > **Tour duration:** 1½ hours, with tour conducted in a foreign language by arrangement. Tour accessible to mobility-impaired visitors.

AFTERNOON**TOUR OF THE CHÂTEAU DE PAU****INFORMATION**

2, rue du Château - 64000 PAU
Tel.: +33 (0)5 59 82 38 00
Website: www.chateau-pau.fr
Email: contact.chateau-de-pau@culture.gouv.fr

- > **Languages:** English and Spanish

OPENING TIMES

Open to the public daily

- > **15 June to 16 September:** from 9.30am to 5.45pm (last tour departs at 5.45pm).

- > **16 September to 14 June:** from 9.30am to 11.45am and 2pm to 5pm (last tour departs at 5pm).
- > **Closure:** The château is closed on 1 January, 1 May and 25 December.

2019 ADMISSION

- > **Full price:** €7.00
- > **Reduced price:** €5.50
- > **Group price:** €6.00 (minimum group size: 10 paying visitors).
- > **Free admission:** Children under 18.
- > **Ticket price** includes admission to the permanent collections; price may increase by €2.00 during some temporary exhibitions.

ACCESSIBILITY

- > **Mobility-impaired visitors:** only the ground floor is accessible.
- > **Visually impaired visitors:** guide dogs are welcome in the museum.

GETTING THERE

- > **Nearby car parks:** Place de Verdun (charge payable) and Usine des tramways (free), access to the château via the funicular.
- > **Coach parking:** free coach parking in Place de la Monnaie with direct access to the château via lift.
- > **By bus:** route 805 Lourdes > Pau
- > **By train:** Lourdes SNCF railway station > Pau SNCF railway station then access to the château via the funicular

LOURDES
TOUR SHEET01
THÈME 4THE OTHER SIDE OF
LOURDES: A LOVELY
DAY EXPLORING THE
TOWN ON FOOT

Château Fort

© P. VINCENT

 **DURATION**
1 DAY**ITINERARY****10.00 AM***Visit the Castle and Musée Pyrénéen***12.00 PM***Market Hall followed by lunch at a restaurant***or 12.30 PM***Funicular to the top followed by a picnic or lunch in a restaurant***4.00 PM***Choice of two history trails: 'Lourdes in the Middle Ages' or 'The Life of Bernadette'*

We suggest you spend a day strolling the avenues and back streets of Lourdes to soak up the town's varied cultural and natural interest and hear the sing-song accent of the townsfolk.

LOURDES

Lourdes is a small town that can easily be explored on foot. After visiting the Sanctuary, we suggest you cross the River Gave on the Pont Vieux or the Pont Saint Michel and walk up to the 'upper town', where you'll come to the **Castle** standing proud on its rocky spur (easy access via the public lift in Rue du Fort). Over the centuries the Castle has had many uses, as a counts' residence, a royal prison and a barracks, but has withstood the ravages of time. Now listed as a Historical Monument, it is home to the Musée Pyrénéen, which recounts the history and cultures of the French and Spanish Pyrenees from the 19th century onwards (allow 1½ hours). The highlight of the castle are the **incredible views** from the tower, botanical garden and south terrace, of the town (Pointe du Cavalier), the Sanctuary and the Pyrenees.

From the foot of the castle, there are two options for the next part, the climb to the top of the **Pic du Jer** on the historical funicular railway: hop on the local bus in the high street, or if you're feeling energetic you'll enjoy the 20-minute walk south to the

funicular. But before you do so, we recommend a stop at the **Market Hall** (open every morning from 6.00). There you'll find dozens of shopkeepers and local producers selling tasty treats for lunch: cured ham, ewe's cheese, freshly baked baguettes still warm from the oven, fresh fruit and veg, prepared deli dishes, local wines and more... Everything you could possibly want for a mid-morning snack or delicious picnic! And if you want to make more of lunch, the restaurants and brasseries around the market extend a warm welcome – unless you want to wait until you're on the summit of the Pic.

If so, the **funicular** is right there (with departures every 30 minutes) for a 10-minute ride up at a relaxed pace. Rising to 945 metres above sea level, the Pic du Jer dominates the town. From the top, the Sanctuary looks tiny, as do the lake and the Gave de Pau, a ribbon of silk dividing the town in two. You can go for a walk on one of the trails or perhaps join a guided tour of the caves. Following your invigorating mountain-top ramble, the local bus will whisk you back to the town centre. To round off the afternoon, why not explore the

streets of the old town on foot or on a Segway? You can hire one of these rather futuristic machines to get around effortlessly, taking in the sights: the Fontaine aux Trois Becs, Tour de Gavarnie, Quai Saint-Jean and Rue des Espenettes.

Or perhaps follow one of the town's two **History Trails** starting from the Tourist Office: 'The Life of Bernadette' and 'Lourdes in the Middle Ages' both guide you via a series of explanatory boards illustrated with old pictures of the town, explaining all about the history of Lourdes. While you're in town you can indulge in some retail therapy too, dipping in to some of the shops and boutiques for a souvenir, a local delicacy or perhaps just a spot of window shopping at the fashion stores.

Finish off the day on a café terrace, gazing at the magnificent silhouette of the castle and lovely view of the River Gave and surrounding peaks, or simply people watching...



LOURDES
TOUR SHEET
01
THÈME 4



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

1. CASTLE AND MUSÉE PYRÉNÉEN

📍 INFORMATION

25, rue du Fort - 65100 LOURDES

Tel.: +33 (0)5 62 42 37 37

Website: www.chateaufort-lourdes.fr

Email: chateaufort.museepyreneen@ville-lourdes.fr

> **Castle - Musée Pyrénéen** 2 minutes on foot from the Tourist Office > **15 minutes** on foot from the Sanctuary > **Bus route S5 from April to October**, every 15 minutes from Porte St Joseph.

Visit duration: 1½ hours approx.

🕒 OPENING TIMES

> **January to April and mid-October to December** : Tuesday to Sunday from 10am to 6pm.

> **April to mid-October** open daily from 10am to 7pm

Ticket office closes 1 hour earlier

💶 2019 ADMISSION

€7.50/adult - €3.50/child and student (6-17 years).

Open all year round for independent visitors with guided tours at set times in July and August.

Combined Castle-and-Funicular ticket:

Pass2L on sale at the castle/funicular, Tourist Office or at www.lourdes-infotourisme.com



Pic du Jer Funicular

© P. VINCENT

2. LOURDES MARKET HALL

📍 INFORMATION

Place du Champ Commun

🕒 OPENING TIMES

> **October to March** Monday to Friday from 6.30am to 2pm and Saturdays and the day before public holidays from 5.30am to 2pm; Mondays, Sundays and public holidays: closed

> **April to October** Monday to Friday from 6am to 2pm, Saturdays and the day before public holidays from 5.30am to 2pm, Sundays from 6.30am to 2pm.

3. PIC DU JER FUNICULAR

📍 INFORMATION

59, avenue Francis Lagardère

Tel.: +33 (0)5 62 94 00 41

Website: www.picdujer.fr

Email: picdujer@ville-lourdes.fr

> **Pic du Jer Funicular** 20 minutes on foot from the Tourist Office > **6 minutes** by car > **Bus route S4 from April to October**, every

30 minutes from Porte St Joseph at the Sanctuary.

🕒 OPENING TIMES

> **April to July and September to November** open from 9.30am to 6pm (last ascent at 5.15pm)

> **July to early September** open from 9.30am to 7pm (last ascent at 6.15pm)

💶 2019 ADMISSION

€12.50/adult - €10.00/child and student or teen (6-17 years).

Caves open to visitors all year round plus guided tours in April and October, also by arrangement in winter (+ €4/adult - €3.50/teen and child).

History trails: free brochure available from the Tourist Office or downloadable from www.lourdes-infotourisme.com