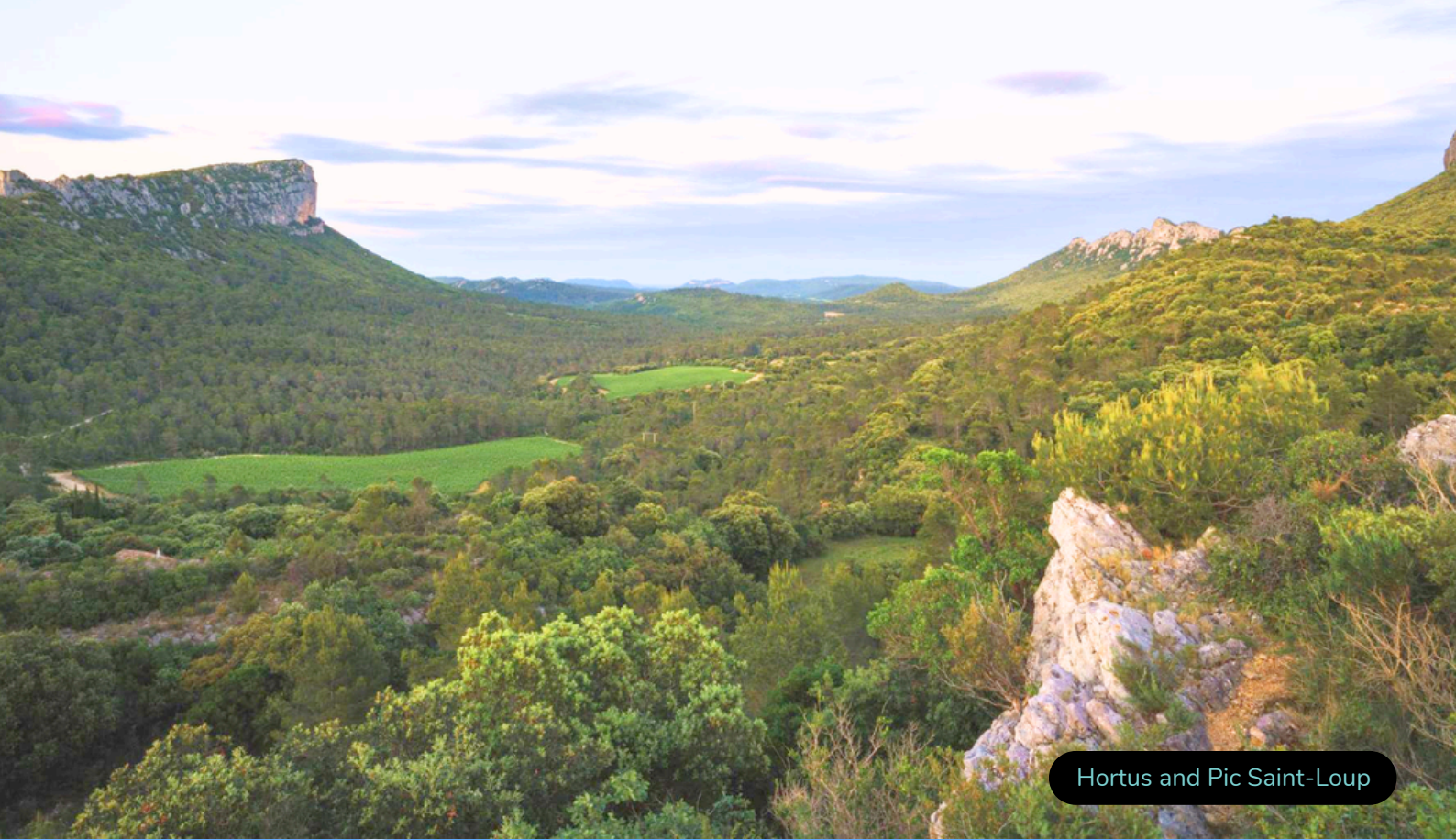


YOUR TRIP ITINERARY TO OCCITANIE AND ECRINS



Hortus and Pic Saint-Loup



*Better
Places*

Bourg d'Oisans

ROAD TRIP TO OCCITANIE AND ECRINS



Les Calanques



Vieux Port Marseille

Your 2-weeks Trip

Itinerary: <https://tinyurl.com/3u5hw3ds>

DAY 1-4 : Marseille to Montpellier

Day 1: 11/09/2026 – Scenic Transfer to Villeneuve-lès-Maguelone via Pont du Gard & Estézargues

Accommodation : Chai de Maguelone, Agnès' Guest House – 4 nights

100 Rue Maguelone, 34750 Villeneuve-lès-Maguelone

Agnès : +33 06 73 58 62 52

Included : Breakfast, access to garden and swimming pool.

Note: this a true Bed and Breakfast, an immersive experience staying with a true local, who is used to host fellow Better Places travelers.

As a practitioner, Agnès offers sophrology sessions and massages on site (subject to availability and on request).



Pont du Gard



Estézargues



Maguelone Cathedral

You will be leaving Marseille to make your way to Montpellier. On your way, we suggest that you head to the charming typical southern French village of Estézargues for lunch at a new off-the-beaten-path “bistro” offering seasonal cuisine based on fresh local ingredients, with excellent vegetarian options. You can also enjoy a visit at the local natural wine cellar or the olive oil mill run by your local expert’s family, before heading to the Pont du Gard, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, located 10min away. It is one of the most impressive Roman aqueducts in existence ! Then, continue to Villeneuve-lès-Maguelone and check-in at your peaceful -converted wine cellar- guesthouse located between lagoons, vineyards, and the Mediterranean coast. At your leisure, you may also enjoy a massage on site, depending on availability

Day 2: 12/09/2026 – Maguelone Cathedral and Beaches

Today we suggest that you explore the surrounding natural areas by bike, following scenic cycling paths through lagoons, vineyards, and protected coastal environments.

Visit the beautiful Maguelone Cathedral, located on a narrow strip of land between sea and lagoon. Here you can lunch, while supporting a local social reintegration initiative. Continue toward wild and protected Mediterranean beaches where you can relax, swim, and observe local birdlife, including flamingos.

ROAD TRIP TO OCCITANIE AND ECRINS

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Your BnB in Villeneuve-lès-Maguelone



Wine estate in Montpellier

Day 3: 13/09/2026 – Montpellier Discovery & meet Alice

Today you can drive or cycle up to Montpellier and discover a vibrant Mediterranean city combining historic charm and contemporary culture. Park your car or the bikes in the latest underground bike park under the famous Place de la Comédie and explore its elegant historic center, lively squares, and pedestrian streets.

> 14h-17h: Wine, Mushroom and Castle Experience

Address: [1744 Av. Albert Einstein, 34000 Montpellier](#)

Contact: Alice [+33 06 23 47 31 28](#)

Enjoy a unique experience with Alice, at a historic wine estate with a permaculture farm. Including, 2 tickets for 6-month access to the gardens, wine/craft beer tasting, permaculture visit, and discovery of underground mushroom farming in a WWII bunker. Please ensure you wear comfortable clothes.

Day 4: 14/09/2026 – Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert & Hérault Valley

Discover Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert, one of France's most beautiful villages, located in the stunning Hérault Valley.

Explore medieval streets, visit the historic abbey, and enjoy nature walks along the river or hikes across local hills. Swimming and relaxation in preserved natural areas is also possible if you wish. Farewell dinner suggestion at a local restaurant featuring fresh seasonal cuisine with vegetarian options.

DAY 5-9 Pic Saint-Loup

Day 5: 15/09/2026 – Transfer to Pic Saint-Loup

Accommodation : L'Étrier des Cabanelles – 4 nights

[La Cabanelle, 34270 Valflaunès](#) Anne : [+33 04 67 55 11 90](#)

Included: Access to the entire villa, garden and swimming pool.

Please note that Anne is a former equestrian champion and now offers equicoaching sessions with the utmost respect for the animals.

Today you drive to your next accommodation, at the foot of the iconic Pic Saint-Loup, facing the impressive Hortus plateau.

You will stay in a sustainable horse estate hosting a comfortable private villa, featuring two large bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms, and a spacious terrace overlooking a private swimming pool.

From every window, enjoy breathtaking views of Pic Saint-Loup and Hortus, inviting you to slow down and reconnect with nature.

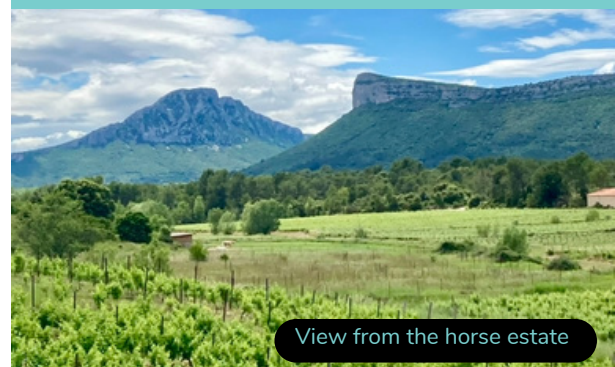
LOCATIONS



Experience with Alice



Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert



View from the horse estate

ROAD TRIP TO OCCITANIE AND ECRINS



Villa in Pic Saint-Loup



Villa in Pic Saint-Loup

LOCATIONS



Wine experience with a 2CV



Terrasse overlooking the pool



Horse estate

Day 6: 16/09/2026 – Hike Up Pic Saint-Loup

Here is a natural viewing point with a 360 degree panoramic view across the Cévennes, the Mediterranean, and even the Pyrenees on a clear day. The hike takes you through fragrant “garrigue” landscapes, the typical scented shrubland of southern France, with thyme, rosemary and limestone cliffs shaping the scenery. It’s also a site of intense geological and botanical interest!

Reaching a height of 658 metres, the Pic Saint-Loup is the distinctive 4 km limestone ridge peak. The Causse de l’Hortus (Hortus plateau) is right next to it, gaping like a vast abyss, as if the earth had opened up to create a huge valley. A central landmark for the area, the Pic Saint-Loup lies amongst the vineyards and “garrigue”.

Day 7: 17/09/2026: Pic-Saint-Loup in a 2CV

Today you’ll enjoy a truly unique and exclusive experience in the Pic Saint-Loup region with a colleague of Alice, Christian. This guide and driver will collect you from your accommodation in a 2CV and accompany you throughout a 3 hour private tour.

> 10h-13h: 2CV Experience around the Pic-Saint-Loup

Meeting point at L’Etrier des Cabanelles, Christian [+33 07 67 08 69 67](tel:+330767086967)

You will visit Clos des Reboussiers, a carefully selected local organic winery, and taste 5 wines along with nibbles, learning about the terroir and winemaking traditions of the Languedoc.

Christian will then take you to a breathtaking view to enjoy a “panier gourmand” with wine tasting and olive “fougasse”, a local delicacy. This will open your appetite before grabbing lunch --we recommend that you eat back at home or book a restaurant close by.

Day 8: 18/09/2026: Hortus

For your final day in the area, we suggest exploring the Hortus, a lesser-known but equally impressive natural site located just opposite Pic Saint-Loup.

Unlike its famous neighbour, the Hortus feels wilder, quieter and more intimate, offering a very different atmosphere.

You may enjoy a gentle hike along the base of the cliffs, through vineyards and garrigue, explore the hidden valley (Causse de l’Hortus), a vast limestone plateau.

This is a place of silence, space and raw nature, ideal for a slower day before heading to Ecrins.

ROAD TRIP TO OCCITANIE AND ECRINS

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Flat in Bourg d'Oisans



Flat in Bourg d'Oisans

Day 9-14 - Adventures in Ecrins

Day 9: 19/09/2026: Bourg d'Oisans

Accommodation : Le Manoir - Oisans - 6 nights

10 Hameau des Essoulieux, 38520 Le Bourg d'Oisans.

Isabelle : +33 06 23 21 75 36

Included: Bed linen, towels, Wifi and local/organic products at home.

Welcome to Isabelle's flat in the heart of Bourg d'Oisans, a lively mountain village surrounded by spectacular Alpine scenery.

Isabelle, who has worked in tourism for over 25 years and mainly in Ecrins, has carefully designed the apartment with a strong local and eco-conscious approach, from regional products to natural toiletries.

The village (3,300 inhabitants) is an ideal base for exploring the Écrins National Park, with hiking trails starting nearby and major sites just a short drive away; including a lake, waterfalls...

Days 10-14: Explore the Ecrins at Your Own Pace

From Bourg d'Oisans, you can choose from a wide variety of activities:

- hiking to waterfalls, alpine lakes and panoramic viewpoints
- cycling legendary mountain roads
- visiting traditional alpine villages
- exploring local markets and artisan producers

This flexible part of the trip allows you to adapt each day to your energy and interests, while immersing yourself in one of France's most beautiful mountain regions.

Day 15: 25/09/2026: Time to get home!

Your journey comes to an end.

It is now time to head home, with bags filled with local produces and wonderful memories of your time in France – from Mediterranean lagoons to mountain peaks.



LOCATIONS



Lake in Ecrins



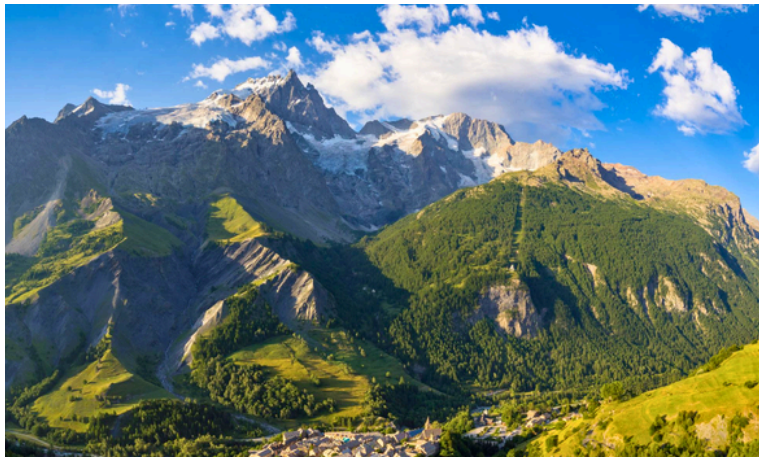
Bourg d'Oisans



Bourg d'Oisans

RECOMMENDATIONS

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MARSEILLE

What to do

Tourism office : [Marseille culture](#)

Today, drop off your car at Aix train station and take the train to Marseille in 15min. Explore France's oldest city, and visit the [MuCEM and Fort Saint-Jean](#), for fascinating exhibitions on Mediterranean cultures and enjoy the stunning architecture.

In the afternoon, take a guided tour with [Marseille Greeters](#) (+33 6 09 08 96 00) or the [Tourism Office guided tours](#) to discover the city's Greek and Roman history.

End your day with a visit to [Notre-Dame de la Garde](#) for sunset views over the city and the Mediterranean Sea, or head to the trendy and heavily graffitied [Cours Julien](#)!

Where to eat

- Ginger Phoenix, [18 Rue Beauvau, 13001 Marseille](#), contact : Aurélien
- Mariposas, [102 Cr Julien, 13006 Marseille](#), contact : Alex
- Lottie Restaurant, [39 Rue de la Paix Marcel Paul, 13001 Marseille](#), contact : Charlotte

For the three of them, feel free to mention that Alice from Montpellier sends you, at times, these foodie experiences are included in the trip.

ESTÉZARGUES AND PONT DU GARD

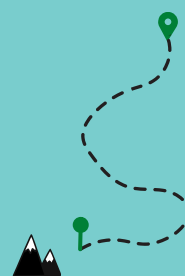
Estézargues, is a typical southern French village where some of Alice's family members are wine and olive oil makers. And the most recent addition to the family, Hubert, launched a sustainable Bistro at the heart of the village, where everything is within 1Km radius.

What to do

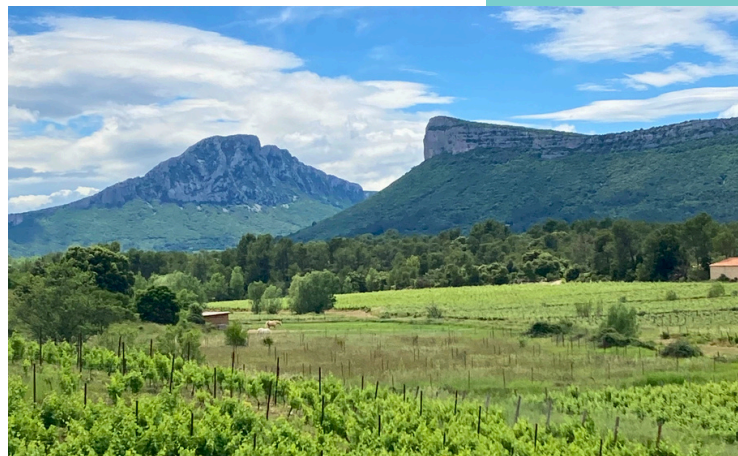
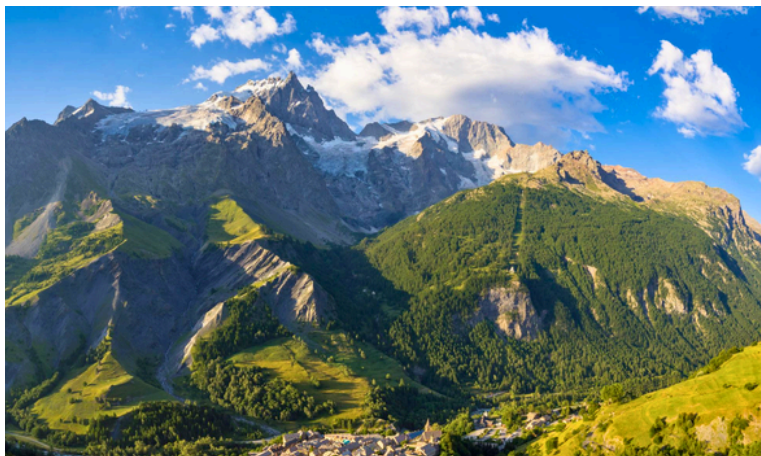
- Oil Mill: Domaine de Pierredon --highly decorated worldwide reknown olive oils
[111 Chem. de la Distillerie, 30390 Estézargues](#), Gilles [+33 04 66 04 05 89](#)
- Wine Cellar: Cave des Vignerons d'Estézargues --first natural wine cellar in France
[478 Rte des Grès, 30390 Estézargues](#), Anna [+33 04 66 57 03 64](#)
- Pont du Gard --UNESCO World Heritage Site (10Km away)
[30210 Vers-Pont-du-Gard](#), Eva, [+33 06 48 10 46 17](#)

Where to eat

- Bistro des Mourres
[2 place du presbytère, 30390, Estézargues, France](#), Hubert [+33 04 11 71 86 27](#)



RECOMMENDATIONS



SAINT GUILHEM LE DESERT

What to do:

- Abbaye de Gellone (UNESCO-listed Benedictine abbey, 804 CE):

Pl. de la Liberté, 34150 Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert

- Local Beer Discovery: La Lazarde, 20 Rue du Bout du Monde, 34150 Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert, Sandrine, +33 06 60 09 03 61
- Clamouse Cave: D4, 34150 Saint-Jean-de-Fos, Sandro, +33 06 32 25 06 75
- Pottery workshop: 1B Pl. de la Mairie, 34150 Saint-Jean-de-Fos, Maude, +33 04 67 59 44 29

Where to eat:

- Souka: 36 Bd Saint-Jean, 34150 Aniane, +33 04 67 57 44 83
- Table d'Aurore: 2 Av. Guillaume d'Orange, 34150 Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert, +33 4 67 57 24 53

PIC SAINT LOUP

What to do

- **Hiking trails**
 - **Pic Saint Loup**

3.39 mi, +1,214 ft -1,207 ft, 2h35, Moderate

Departure from Cazevieille (Hérault)

This hike is best done on a sunny afternoon, so that you can contemplate the view from the summit, which can be truly breathtaking if the air is dry. This hike may be prohibited depending on the level of fire risk. Please consult the map.

- **Circuit around the Pic Saint Loup**

5.73 mi, +1,982 ft -1,942 ft, 6 hrs, Very difficult

Departure from Cazevieille (Hérault)

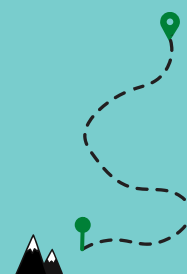
There are several very interesting walks in the Pic Saint-Loup area near Montpellier, with distant views of the Cévennes to the north and the sea to the south.

- **Pic-Saint-Loup from Saint-Mathieu-de-Trévières**

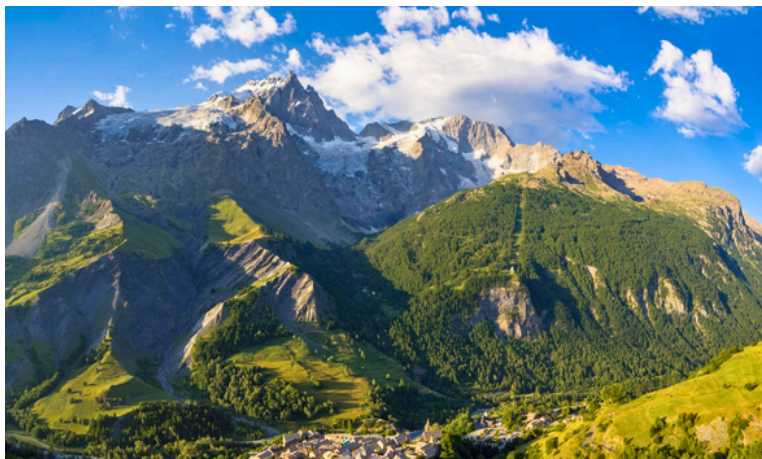
5.34 mi, +1,821 ft -1,821 ft, 4h00, Moderate

Departure from Saint-Mathieu-de-Trévières (Hérault)

Pic-Saint-Loup, the legendary peak in the Montpellier hinterland. Here, I suggest approaching it from the east via Saint-Mathieu-de-Trévières. This shaded, less frequented route through the woods takes you past the ruined castle of Montferrand. At the summit, you can enjoy views of the Alps, the Pyrenees, Mont Ventoux, the Cévennes and the Mediterranean.



RECOMMENDATIONS



PIC-SAINT-LOUP

What to do

- **More hiking trails**

- **Tour of Pic Saint-Loup from Saint-Mathieu-de-Trévières**

9.31 mi, +2,759 ft -2,762 ft, 6h 40, Difficult

Departure from Saint-Mathieu-de-Trévières (Hérault)

Pic Saint-Loup is a classic spot with a superb panorama: on one side, the view stretches as far as Mont Aigoual, which rises above the Cévennes, and on the other, the plain stretches to the blue Mediterranean. Starting from Saint-Mathieu-de-Trévières, this route begins in the opposite direction, allowing you to enjoy more peace and quiet and follow the sun's path. Some sections are vertiginous, see reviews

- **Pic Saint-Loup via the diagonal route on the north face**

2.05 mi, +1,365 ft -1,375 ft, 2.5 hrs, Very difficult

Departure from Cazevieille (Hérault)

A very beautiful walk, fairly short but quite strenuous. Please note that some sections are steep and are not recommended for those prone to vertigo.

- **Walk around Lac de Cécéles : 34270 Saint-Mathieu-de-Trévières**
 - **Other tips** from the Pic-Saint-Loup Tourism Office's

Where to eat

- J'Adore Restaurant: 310 Parc de Saint-Sauveur, 34980 Saint-Clément-de-Rivière
Vince, +33 04 99 67 31 02 | Feel free to mention you're calling from Alice at Perma Social Club
- Ô Jasmin: 26 Imp. de la Carrée, 34980 Saint-Gély-du-Fesc, +33 04 99 06 95 42

HORTUS

What to do

- **Hiking trail**

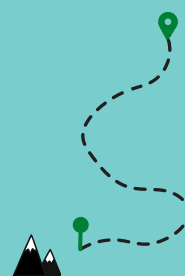
- **Hortus : Corniche de l'Hortus**

11.1km, 428m elevation gain, return trip

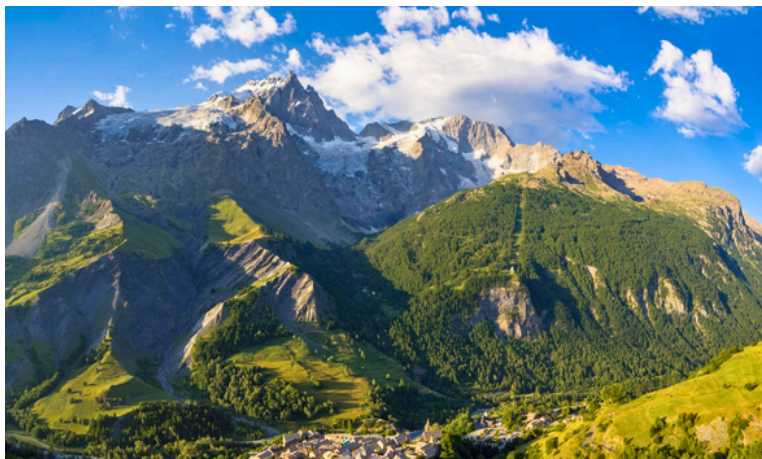
This pretty hiking trail starts in the heights of Gourdou near Valflaunès in the Hérault department. This route draws a loop which borrows the cornice of Hortus and passes in particular by the rocks of Pas du Loup, then by the castle of Vivioures. You will also discover the cave of Hortus.

Where to eat

- La Belle Vigne: Pl. Gabriel Calmels, 34270 Valflaunès, +33 04 67 29 14 43



RECOMMENDATIONS



ÉCRINS

- **From the National Park of Ecrins, you can chose from 154 hikes.**

Futher to my discussions with my colleague Nicolas Breton, a sustainable tourism guide publisher, and outdoor lover, he recommends to do [viaferrata of Rocher Blanc](#) and a few hikes.

- **Where to hike**

- **Le Grand Galibier**

11.85 mi + 4,252 ft - 4,236 ft, 9h 10, Very difficult

The calculated time is compted with the distance, the elevation difference and an avera speed of 2.2mph (3.5Km/h). For an intermediate walker, this time includes small breaks.

This legendary summit offers spectacular views of the Écrins mountains dominated by La Barre and La Meije, Goléon, the Aiguilles d'Arves, Mont Blanc, Viso, Queyras and the Swiss Valais, where Liskamm and Monte Rosa rise up. It is also a popular area for ibex.

- **The Grand Lac and the Lac de la Ponsonnière**

7.20 mi +2,835 ft -2,835 ft 5h 45 Moderate

Departure from Le Monêtier-les-Bains (Hautes-Alpes)

20 minutes from the town of Monêtier-les-Bains. A lovely day's hike with a magnificent view at the end. Views over the Grand Lac and the Écrins massif.Return to the car park via the same route.

- **The Lake of La Muzelle**

7.38 mi + 4,101 ft - 4,101 ft, 7h 00, Difficult

A well-deserved but spectacular view. A magnificent lake at the foot of the Muzelle glacier that is not to be missed!

- **The Pisse waterfall**

8,1km, +230m -230m, 3h, Easy, Return trip

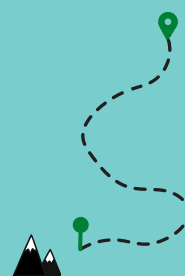
This family trail is a chance to admire the untamed mountains in complete safety and to feel all the force of the natural elements.

After crossing the village and the meadows surrounded with rocks, the route is adorned with unruly waterfalls. The valley dug out of the crystalline mountains (granite and gneiss) forms the "U" shape characterising landscapes shaped by glaciers.

Where to eat

20-30min away from home :

- Le Relais Des Écrins épicerie, [14 Rue de la Bibliothèque, 38520 Saint-Christophe-en-Oisans, +33 06 74 09 08 29](#)
- Restaurant La Table du Daria, [140 Impasse de l'école, 38750 Huez, +33 04 76 80 68 28](#)



WHAT IS OR NOT INCLUDED ? RECOMMENDATIONS

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WHAT IS INCLUDED

- All our best recommendations for hikes, landmarks and local restaurants
- 14 nights accommodations ; 4 nights in a BnB in Villeneuve-Lès-Maguelone with breakfasts, 4 nights in a villa in Pic Saint-Loup and 6 nights in a flat in Bourg d'Oisans
- Your itinerary across France
- Activities :
 - A 2CV half-day private winery experience with a local guide
 - Organic wine tasting in a wine chateau and beer tasting
 - Visit of gardens and permaculture farm with Alice
 - Our best recommendations for hiking routes in Pic Saint-Loup and Ecrins
- Meals
 - 4 breakfasts for 2 people in a BnB in Villeneuve-Lès-Maguelone

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

- Travel insurance. We recommend that you purchase a travel insurance to cover unforeseen events, such as cancellations, medical emergencies, or lost luggage
- Transportation to and from the Netherlands, across France and in your spare time
- Meals : breakfasts, lunches, dinners and beverages not mentioned above are at the travellers' expense
- Tips for the different partners throughout your trip
- Any activities not listed as included above

RECOMMENDATIONS

Weather forecast

Southern France in September still experience warm temperatures, but it's always best to pack some warm and rain clothes.

Packing

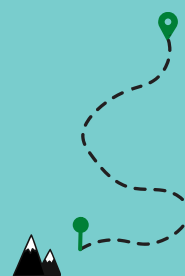
Opt for comfortable walking shoes and versatile clothing items that can be layered for changing weather conditions.

Travel Documents and Essentials

Although you will be in the EU, please make sure to carry all necessary travel documents, including ID/passports, travel insurance information, your itineraries...

Travel Security and Safety

Although we ensure that your trip is as safe as possible, please keep your belongings secure at all times. Be vigilant in crowded areas and avoid displaying valuable items openly.



WELCOME TO FRANCE

Dear members of Better Places,

We hope that this travel proposal finds you enthusiastic about your next holidays with us. On behalf of the entire team, we'd like to sincerely thank you for wanting to travel differently and support a meaningful local economy.

By booking a holiday with us, you would be contributing to the development of a more responsible and sustainable form of tourism, with a focus on preserving culture and the environment. We are honoured to accompany you on an adventure that promises to be participatory, learning and memorable.

We're delighted to offer you an exciting program for your stay, including visits, workshops and deeply cultural experiences between Marseille, Montpellier and Ecrins.

By booking with us, you will become agents of change and ambassadors for ecotourism. Your presence will have a positive impact on our terroir and local area, as each of your interactions and shared experiences helps to strengthen our local economy and maintain and develop biodiversity.

We do our utmost to make your stay unforgettable and to offer you a unique, authentic and positive experience.

Once again, thank you for choosing us for your holidays in France and if you have any questions or specific requests regarding this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact us. We'll be happy to answer any questions you may have and ensure your stay will be as enjoyable as possible.

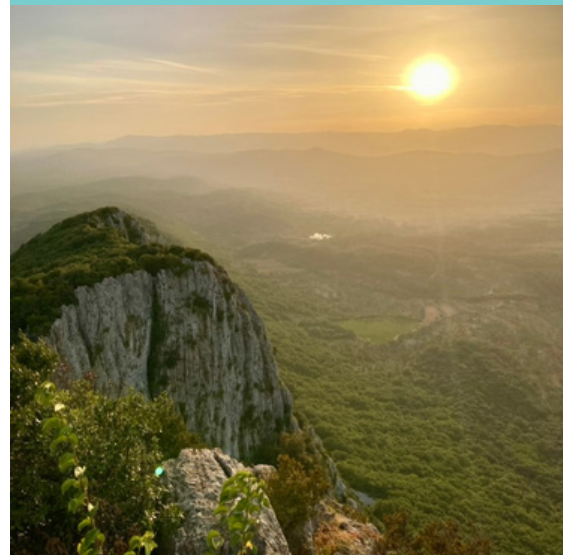
Enjoy your trip with Better Places!

Faithfully yours,
Alice

+33(0)6 23 47 31 28
alice@betterplaces.nl

NOTES

If you decide to print this travel proposal as a practical tool,
here's a space to let your imagination run wild...

[illegible]



CONTACT

Alice Benisty-Triay
+33(0)6 23 47 31 28
alice@betterplaces.nl