

Back to France

HOW WE'VE MISSED FRANCE!
TOURING MAGAZINE SHOWCASES,
REGION-BY-REGION, WHY YOU SHOULD
RETURN – OR MAKE A FIRST-TIME VISIT
FOR A CAMPING HOLIDAY



It's the second largest region of France and, why wouldn't you visit? In an area that's 3½ times the size of Wales, there are 200km of Mediterranean coastline, two national parks and eight regional nature parks plus a marine nature park, eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites, 44 winter sports resorts and 28 thermal spas.

It also includes more than 40 of France's top sites including medieval villages and castles in Cathar country together with the renowned city of Carcassonne, incredible waterways like the pastoral Canal du Midi and the rocky gorges of the Tarn, the Jonte, the Lot and the Dordogne valley, some of the Pyrenees mountain range (we recommend a cable-car ride to the summit of the Pic du Midi – and a Skywalk) and massifs such as the Cevennes, not to mention vineyards. Oh, and it's also the most popular region in France for climbing.

There's lots that's new, including an eighth dedicated regional nature park – Corbières-Fenouilletès. More than 30% of the land in Occitanie is protected either as a national park or regional nature park, this new protected area of 1,600 square kilometres showcases an important cultural heritage, with Cathar sites, abbeys and listed villages, in addition to exceptional flora and fauna, some of which, such as Bonelli's Eagle, are critically endangered in France.

www.tourism-occitanie.co.uk

Glorious scenery in the
new Corbières-Fenouilletès
Regional Nature Park
© Le Département 2011, Occitanie

Occitanie



Le Moulin de Sainte Anne, Occitanie Sites et Paysages

Tacuzzi, anyone? It's next to the swimming pool, if you're looking for it after you've finished your cocktail at the bar. And that's presumably to cool off after you've been to view nearby Carcassonne and taken a stroll along the Canal du Midi. You could try your hand at pétanque (there is, naturally, an area for playing it, after the owners have taken you on a tour of the local vineyards that surround the site).

There are just 43 pitches at Le Moulin, situated in a peaceful, wooded environment within a tiny village in the heart of Cathar country. If you don't have your own facilities, there are pre-erected safari tents and timber lodges to rent.



Occitanie includes the rocky gorges
of the Tarn, the Jonte, the Lot and
the Dordogne valley and some of the
Pyrenees mountain range

Summer in the ski resort of
La Mongie, Pyrenees
© Castro Mills

