



**Discover Tarn
From 10th to 14th June
The Good Life**

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Tuesday, June 10th

10.40am : Arrival in Toulouse airport

Welcomed by Valérie

12.00 Lunch at Chateau de Fiac**** <https://www.chateaudefiac.com/>

With Sandra Lampée Baumgartner, director

The Chateau de Fiac is a unique 19th century property near Toulouse and Albi, transformed into a Hotel**** Restaurant & Spa Centre. Set in 3 hectares of parkland, this residence, renovated in a highly original design style, is dedicated to well-being, with a Spa and well-being centre that is unique in the Occitanie region.

15.00 pm Visit to the 'Les Poteries d'Albi' workshops, Albi. Les Poteries d'Albi, which has been awarded the Entreprise du Patrimoine Vivant (Living Heritage Company) label, perpetuates family know-how. Originally brickmakers, making building bricks for Albi the Red, the family followed the evolution of the trade to become potters. Lore Camillo, the 6th generation, now creates exceptional pots, and the workshop is the last in France to glaze by hand. <https://www.lespoteriesdalbi.fr/>

Diner and night Hotel Mercure** Albi**

housed in an old brick mill dating from 1770. The hotel enjoys an exceptional view of the Episcopal City and the Tarn. All you have to do is crossing a bridge to reach the historic center and set off to discover it.

• 41, rue Porta - 81000 Albi - +33 5 63 47 66 66 - <https://all.accor.com/hotel/1211/index.fr.shtml>

Wednesday, June 11th
Going back up to the hilltop villages

Meeting with Valérie at 9.00 am

9.30am Visit to Cordes sur Ciel

Guided tour with Nathalie, from the Tourist Office.

Visit of the 'Jardin des paradis', listed as a remarkable garden.

An emblematic hilltop village in the Tarn region, Cordes sur Ciel has been awarded the title of 'Most Beautiful Village in France' and was voted 'Favourite Village of the French' in 2014. It is also known as 'the city of 100 arches'. Its mansions and architecture make it one of the region's must-see historic sites, and its narrow streets with their craftsmen's and artists' stalls give it a unique charm! Albert Camus himself wrote about Cordes. Two other things are iconic about Cordes: the view from the high Puech that reveals the town (if you're lucky, under the mist!) and the famous and tasty croquants de cordes, prepared in the past to meet the abundant production of almonds.

Guided tour with Nathalie, from the Tourist Office. Visit the 'Jardin des paradis', listed as a remarkable garden.

<https://www.tourisme-tarn.com/decouvrir/incontournables/cordes-sur-ciel/>

<https://jardindesparadis.jimdoweb.com/>

12.30 Lunch at the Restaurant "L'auberge des Arcades", Castelnau-de-Montmiral

Castelnau de Montmiral is another hilltop village. With its square courtyard surrounded by vaulted ceilings, it takes you back to the Middle Ages. France's most beautiful village, it also has a few mysteries up its sleeve.

<https://www.tourisme-tarn.com/decouvrir/incontournables/bastides-villages/villages/castelnau-de-montmiral/>

<https://lesarcades.net/lauberge-des-arcades/>

14.30 pm Walk to Puycelsi, the woodland fortress.

Perched on its rocky outcrop, Puycelsi overlooks the Grésigne forest, one of the largest oak forests in Europe. It's a charming village and a great place to stroll around! The ramparts offer magnificent views, the houses are beautifully decorated, and in the centre the old Auberge brings the village to life! Here's a nod to history: look out for the pig emblematic of the siege against the English!

<https://www.tourisme-tarn.com/decouvrir/incontournables/bastides-villages/villages/puycelsi/>

16.00 pm

Visit to the Château-Fortress de Penne

Penne is the wildest of the hilltop villages, with its fortress perched on a rocky spur that seems to stand upright by magic. It is the emblem of the defensive history of the Tarn. 2nd private site in the ex. Midi-Pyrénées in terms of visitor numbers, the Fortress of Penne was bought by a passionate man who, at the

age of 10, vowed to buy the castle back! To mark its 15th anniversary of being open to the public and restored by a medieval site, the Fortress of Penne is opening its museum area with exhibits excavated during the works. It's a family site with a host of medieval events, knight fights, workshops and concerts.
<https://www.chateau-penne.com/>

Diner and night Hotel Mercure** Albi**

<p>Thursday, June 12th Albi, Unesco Episcopal City</p>

9.30 Meeting with Valérie - Walking tour of the historic centre

10.00 am Guided tour of the Episcopal City of Albi with Alexandra from the Tourist Office.

Visit Ste-Cécile's Cathedral, the largest brick religious building in the world and the largest painted cathedral in Europe, the Berbie Palace and gardens (Jardin Remarquable), old Alby and the Castelveil district.

Visit the Toulouse-Lautrec Museum, home to the world's largest collection of works by the Albi-born painter. Visit the temporary exhibition 'Toulouse-Lautrec and the art of the poster', which brings together for the first time the entire collection of the artist's restored posters.

<https://www.tourisme-tarn.com/decouvrir/incontournables/albi-cite-episcopale/>

<https://www.musee-toulouse-lautrec.com/>

12.00 Lunch at the restaurant "La forge du vieil Alby"

Housed in the old forge in the Vieil Alby district, the restaurant still bears the scars of history. Chef Bernard Gisquet offers bistronomic cuisine, and the desserts are created by Albigensian patissier Cédric Millet, who offers light sweet notes and a balanced combination of fruit, vegetables and herbs.

<https://www.laforgeuvreilalby.fr/>

14.30 pm Join Marc and his faithful Griotte for an unusual vintage drive around Albi in a vintage 2CV!

Marc will show you the sights of the episcopal city and reveal some secret places with a few legends and anecdotes! A different way of seeing the city, with the top down!

<https://letacotcathare.fr/>

17.00 pm Gabare trip on the river Tarn.

(Subject to sailing conditions)

Meet at the foot of the Episcopal City on the banks of the Tarn to board a gabarre, a historic flat-bottomed boat once used to transport Gaillac wines. The ride along the river will show you the other side of Albi: Albi the green, with its biodiversity.

<https://www.tourisme-tarn.com/experiences/apero-sur-leau-le-gaillac-en-gabarre/>

Diner and night Hotel Mercure** Albi**

Friday, June 13th
A colourful day in the Tarn

Meeting with Valérie at 09.30

10.00 am Visit Lautrec, France's most beautiful village and a heritage site for taste.

This is the land of the Pink Garlic of Lautrec, the only red label garlic in France, typical for its soft colour and mild, suave taste. It's also here, in the heart of the Pays de Cocagne, that Pastel was produced, traces of which can still be seen in the village. Take a tour of the village with Véronique from the Tourist Office, and visit the windmill, one of the last still in operation in Occitanie, with a magnificent panorama over the fields and the Garlic Trail.

<https://www.tourisme-tarn.com/decouvrir/incontournables/bastides-villages/villages/lautrec/>

12.00 Lunch at the restaurant "L'Ocxalis"

The young couple offer a modern, gourmet cuisine that revisits pink garlic, black garlic and local produce.

<https://www.locxalis.com/>

14.00 Visit the Goya Museum in Castres

Housed in the former episcopal palace, in front of the gardens designed by Le Notre, the Goya Museum was completely renovated in 2023. It now boasts the largest collection of Hispanic art after the Louvre, the result of a collector's bequest that has been enriched by various curators. Its curator, Joelle Arches, has designed an immersive scenography and redesigned the collections to offer a journey to the heart of Hispanic art. After your visit, take in the view of the coloured houses on the River Agout, former tanners' cottages that are emblematic of Castres.

<https://www.tourisme-tarn.com/decouvrir/incontournables/castres/>

<https://www.museegoya.fr/fr/>

Transfer to Toulouse by train

From Castres : 4:15 pm > 5:50pm in Toulouse or 5:53pm > 7:06 pm in Toulouse

Night in Toulouse

Saturday, June 14th

11.10 am : departure for London