



Follow the Sheep Transhumance in the Lot Valley

The transhumance of the flocks up to the mountain summer pasture is always a crucial moment for life in the Lot Valley and this year for the first time, it is happening between the départements of Lot and Cantal.

700 sheep will progress from the Lot to the Lioran in Cantal where they will stay until mid-September.

The occasion to discover the area, the diversity of the scenery, the local products and the ancient traditions of local shepherds and farmers.

Why join us ?

Unique ! It is the first transhumance between the two départements of Lot and Cantal. It is taking place from 3 to 17 June 2012 with 15 stages, over 180 km !

Visits of the most emblematic sites of Lot and Cantal : from the Quercy arid soil to the green Lioran resort, the flock and its guides will take you through amazing sceneries.

Preservation of the environment : one of the main objective of this first Lot-Cantal transhumance is environmental : development of the flock for the Lot department shepherds , stop using trucks to take the flock to the summer pastures, reduction of costs and also labour so they can concentrate on farming. For the Cantal department, owner of the Lioran mountain summer pasture, who has to maintain the pastures, the transhumance allows bio-diversity preservation, the sheep helping growing good quality grass, which is essential in the maintain of the snow in the winter season.

Promotion of shepherds trade and discovery of their work (with shepherds dogs demonstration, sheep shearing and wool weaving, ...)

Plus lots of entertainment planned in all the villages visited : food testing , gourmet dinner, dance and traditional bands festivals, ...

The sites crossed during this transhumance are :

Les Causses du Quercy



The Causse is a vast limestone plateau (covered with dried grass and rich flora) cut with valleys where under the action of water , you find cliffs, caves, sinkholes, ... The Quercy Blanc, so called for the colour of its white chalk bedrock, occupies the

south western corner of the Lot. With its white stone houses, fields of lavender and lovely Romanesque village churches, it has a sunny, bright, undeniably Southern feel to it.



The Célé Valley

It runs through the same type of limestone landscape as the Lot. It is bordered by tall cliffs, often coloured ochre by the presence of small quantities of iron oxide, or dark greyish-black by manganese dioxide.

It is a gloriously beautiful valley, lined with small villages, cave-dweller villages, medieval castles, each more attractive than the last.



The Chataigneraie

In the south-west of the Cantal area, the "châtaigneraies" (chestnut groves) have been carefully preserved over the centuries. The contrasting landscapes characterised by the strength and majesty of the Auvergne's volcanoes and the peaceful setting of the Lot valley, are combined with a remarkable

Romanesque architectural heritage – which you can appreciate in the medieval villages of Marcolés, Montsalvy, Maurs la Jolie and La Roquebrou.



The Jordanne valley : In the heart of a setting formed by the Puy Mary, Puy Griou and Puy de Chavaroche massifs, Mandailles St Julien possesses an inestimable wealth of nature.

Mandailles has become a prized holiday destination for refreshing walks and summer hikes.



The Lioran massif

Peaks, valleys, plateau, waterfalls or gorges : each trail offers exceptional sceneries!

Final stage of this transhumance, the Lioran resort, by the Plomb du Cantal, offers various activities all year long.

Week-end offer!

Take part in an unique experience ! Join the shepherds for this first edition of the Transhumance from the Lot Valley to the Cantal volcanos. During one week-end, follow the 700 sheep coming from the Causses plateaux to the Lioran, by the largest volcano in Europe.

Program :

Saturday 16 June : departure from Mandailles Saint Julien with the guide. Follow the flock in the Jordanne Valley, discover the Pastoral traditions. Picnic on the way. In the evening, dinner and night at Le Buron* de Meije Costes (www.refuge-meigecoste.com) - (*buron is a traditional stone house where they used to make the Cantal cheese)

Sunday 17 June : departure with the flock and the shepherds to the Lioran ski resort, last stage after 15 days of transhumance! Picnic during the day. Entertainment (sheep shearing, work of the shepherds dogs..), food testing, ...
Shuttle to go back to Mandailles Saint Julien.

Price : 100 euros per person (min. 5 participants, max. 12)

A press trip can be organised anytime between 3rd and 17th June, please note that a confirmed commission is required before the trip.

More information on www.lotvalley.com

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