

My donkey friend

OVERVIEW :

Our donkey tour is perfect for all the family! Your kids will love exploring the French Alps with our adorable donkeys.

Enjoy scenic walks with breath-taking views on the Alpine landscape. Learn to care for your donkey friend, glimpse wild life in their natural environment and learn about our native flora and fauna.

Group : 8 to 12 people – 7 days – Suitable for all fitness – Price : 1250 euros/adult



ITINERARY :

Day 1 : Transfer from Die train station to the Luc en Diois village, located at the south of the Vercors Massif.

Day 2 : Chaos of the Claps. Positive elevation 400m. Distance 9 km. 5 h.

We will first meet our friends in their donkey park. Your guide will teach the basics about donkey equipment and guiding. Kids will then lead them on a 2 hours easy forest track from Luc en Diois up to the Chaos of the Claps, unique geological phenomena. You will learn about how in 1452, a gigantic limestone strata has collapsed in the river Drome, burying the entire village of Luc en Diois. Fascinating story of the geological history of the massif. Enjoy the south of France weather and go for a bath in the amazing scenery of the Drome river !

Day 3 : Combe du Four. Positive elevation : 400m. Distance : 8 km. Time : 5h.

We will join our faithful companions parked at Luc-en-Diois. Our tour will start by crossing the village and follow easy forest tracks up to the Combe du Four. Following the slow pace of the donkeys, we will observe the alpine flora and learn about the importance of the alpine forest ecosystem. Your guide will lead you to some secret and remote places for an unforgettable picnic in the beautiful scenery of the Diois.

Day 4 : Resting day. Option down river trip.

Either relax at your cottage or enjoy the fresh atmosphere of La Sure river. An easy 2 hours downriver trip, observing the humid habitat fauna and bathing in natural rock pools.

Day 5 : Vallon de Combeau. Positive elevation 250m. Distance 8 km. 5h.

Vallon de combeau is one of the best place of the Vercors Massif. A smooth undulating valley covered by pines, beech trees and alpine meadows leading to one of the best scenery of the Alps, the famous Mount Aiguille, first summit ever climbed and birth of the Alpine history. Our route will start at the Combeau parking. Your guide will explain the history of the Natural Reserve of the Hauts Plateaux and the rules to be respected to protected this unique natural environment . We will then start to explore the Alps flora (marmots, vultures, ibexes) and fauna.

Day 6 : Chamaloc. Positive elevation : 200m. Distance : 5km. Time : 3h.

We start our tour in the small place of Chamaloc, located south of the Massif. We will follow a gentle mountain track and look for a vulture observation site. The impressive limestone cliffs are a perfect natural habitat for a population of more than 100 birds. We will observe the incredible gliding technics of this emblematic bird of the Vercors and learn about his critical role in the mountain ecosystem.

Day 7. Transfer to Die tran station.**DIFFICULTY :**

This tour has been specially tailored for families (kids 5 to 12) or people looking for a easy mountain hike. Gentle 3 to 5 hours walks (not including breaks). Positive Elevation from 2 to 400 meters. 5 to 8 kms distance. You will walk on regular tracks and smooth off tracks terrain. Your guide will adapt the pace to the level o the group and will plan breaks at any time needed to make the tour enjoyable.

FOOD AND ACCOMMODATIONS :

All inclusive tour including nights and meals.

Our organization has pre-selected family and group cottages around the village of Luc en Diois, south of the Vercors Massif. Our organization will select the cottage according to availability at booking date. List of pre-selected cottages available on request.

GUIDE :

A qualified guide (French State Diploma in Alpinism) will guarantee your safety all along the journey. Even in remote areas where mobile phone network is not available, our guides are equipped with a radio allowing to reach rescue services if required. Our guides have a deep knowledge of the massif and will be pleased to comment about fauna, flora, geology of the massif.

Please note that your guide can adapt the program according to weather conditions and group fitness level.

WHEN TO GO :

Tour available from May to October. Minimum number of participants is 8 people. Maximum 12 people.

WEATHER :

Mostly dry and hot weather in summer time. As we are progressing in a mountain environment, rapid change of weather can happen with a wide range of Temperature from 5 to 25 degrees. We need to be equipped for both hot and cold weather, as well as dry or humid weather.

TRANSPORTATION : Possibility to pick you up at the Valence TGV station. All transfer to the walks departure point included in the price.

PRICE :

adult : 1250 euros

kids (under 12) : 950 euros

Included : guide fees, food and accommodation

Excluded : transportation from UK up to the Valence TGV station, insurance, taxes, equipment rental (if required)

CO2 FREE AND ENVIRONMENTAL FRIENDLY TOUR :

One of our strong values is the protection of the environment. We strongly recommend to travel by train to the Valence TGV station based a few kilometers away from the Vercors Massif. Our car transportation will be limited and compensated.

We will not set up camp fires. A minimum distance to wild life (wild ungulates, chamois, ibex, ..) will be respected. Obviously no garbage will be left during the trek. Off trail routes are chosen to limit our impact on the soil. Finally, our food will include a limited quantity of meat.

Total CO2 estimation : 25 kg CO2 per person fully compensated

Train : 5 kg CO2

Car transportation : 4 kg CO2

Food and Accommodations : 9 kg CO2

Equipment : 7 kg CO2

Compensation : 25 kg CO2 per person

EQUIPMENT LIST :

Backpack with a hip belt.
Adjustable trekking poles
Sunglasses
Sunscreen
Sun hat
Head lamp
Water bottle

Hygiene kit

Medical kit :

Antiseptic wipes and bandages
Medication for pain, fever, inflammation, diarrhea
Compeed (or equivalent) for blisters
Elastoplaste (o equivalent) for blisters
Survival blanket
Medical tool (chisel, ..)

Clothing and footwear :

Mountain shoes
Moisture-wicking underwear
Moisture-wicking T shirts
Quick drying pants/short
Long sleeve shirt (for sun)
Socks

Rain jacket
Warm insulated jacket
Fleece sweater
Tee-shirts
pant
Gloves
Warm Hat

Binocular (optional)
Navigation tools (optional)
Cell phone (even if remote area are outside coverage zone, cell phone is part of safety equipment)