

ITINERANT TOUR

RALLYE « CANAL DU MIDI »

 **14 - 19 august**
6 days / 206 km

 **REQUIRED LEVEL** 

ROUTE

The idea of linking up the Garonne to the Mediterranean dates back to the Antiquity and Emperor Augustus, and was later shared with Charlemagne, François 1er and Henri IV. This helped opening the region and made it easier for trade since it saved time (gained from not going 3000km around Spain), lives (less encounters with pirates and storms) and money (a tax was to be paid when crossing). Pierre Paul Riquet was the first one to find a way to supply the canal with water. This gigantic construction work began in 1662 and lasted 20 years, among which 12 were dedicated to the actual building, which required 12 000 men. It was classified world heritage by the UNESCO on the 7th of December, 1996. It was the largest artificial canal at the time, and Saint Féréol was the largest artificial lake. Pierre Paul Riquet was also the one to set up numerous benefits for the canal workers: paid holiday, social security, incapacity benefit, retirement... You will spend four nights in the city of Carcassonne, which will give you the opportunity to discover a unique citadel.

SIGHTSEEING

People always come back to the Canal du Midi, for along the way, as you row together for kilometers and cross locks (outside water, in a carriage), you share a great group experience, enjoy a well-organized tour and are amazed at the surrounding beauty: the water and its bordering trees, the charming lock keeper houses...

The whole tour has a southern touch, partly because of the locks 'names «Aygues vives, Négra, Gardouche, Marseillette, Puycheric...», the civil engineering structures such as «épanchoir, déversoir, pont de Pigasse, tunnel de Malpas...», or else the names of the different regions crossed along the way : « le Lauraguais, le Minervois, le Carcassés, le Biterrois ».

You will be fascinated by the richness as well as the secrecy of the local heritage. Since this tour is famous and attracts many foreigners you will have the opportunity to improve your language skills: English, Dutch, German, African, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese..



PRATICAL INFORMATION



TOUR DURATION

6 days, 14 - 19 august 2017



TOUR PLACE

from Toulouse to Béziers, Canal du Midi



BOATS

Recreational double scull, recreational four-person sculling boats



FEES

110 € : without accommodation, meal in addition to 15 €
460 € : with accommodation, 5 nights included and 11 meals included



FOR COMPANIONS

Identical fees



SEAT RENTAL

60 seats available, 12 €/day



SAFETY

Supervision : 25 people
Safety assurée depuis la berge



PROVISIONAL PLANNING

Welcoming of participants on the previous day from 3pm, on Paul Sabatier alley in Toulouse
Day 1 : 30am to 12am - 22,8 km from Toulouse to Ayguevives / 2.30pm to 5pm - 21,8 km from Ayguevives to Port Lauragais
Day 2 : 30am to 11.30am - 14,7 km from Port-Lauragais to Castelnaudary - 2.30pm to 5pm - 16,6 km from Castelnaudary to Bram
Day 3 : 8.30am to 11.30am - 24,5 km from Bram to Carcassonne / 3pm to 5pm - 12,7 km from Carcassonne to Trèbes
Day 4 : 8.30am to 11.30am - 21,5 km from Trèbes to La Redorte / 2.30pm to 5pm - 21,4 km from La Redorte to Ventenac
Day 5 : 8.30am to 11.30am - 27,4 km from Ventenac to Capestang / 2.30pm to 5pm - Capestang-Béziers - Festive evening
Day 6 : Tidying of the equipment and departure after lunch



CONTACT

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TO ENLIVEN YOUR STAY

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Phone 05 61 99 44 00
tourisme-haute-garonne.com

Departmental committee of the tourism of l'Aude

Phone 04 68 11 66 00
tourisme.fr/office-de-tourisme/toulouse.htm

Tourist office of Toulouse

Phone 05 61 11 02 22
tourisme.fr/office-de-tourisme/toulouse.htm

Departmental committee of the tourism of Hérault

Phone 08 25 34 00 34
herault-tourisme.com

Tourist office of Béziers

Phone 04 67 76 47 00
beziers-tourisme.fr