

Need a change
of scenery?
try **Haute-Loire!**
... In the Auvergne

TOURISME EN

Haute
Loire



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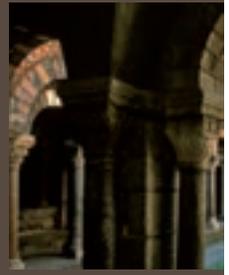
Le Puy-en-Velay

Le Puy-en-Velay

A UNESCO World Heritage Site
European capital of the Way of Saint James



The conservation area in Le Puy-en-Velay's upper town is a treasure trove of historic and architectural gems. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the imposing cathedral is built into the side of Mont Anis and boasts a cloister which is also well worth a visit. Dating from the 11th and 12th centuries, it is one of the most beautiful and best preserved Romanesque cloisters in Europe.



The nearby Hôtel-Dieu houses an interactive museum chronicling the region's history and also hosts new exhibitions.

The Saint Michel d'Aiguilhe chapel, a true gem of 10th and 11th century Romanesque art perched 88 metres up on the top of a volcanic plug, and the statue of Notre Dame de France, who watches over the whole city from her lofty position atop the Rocher Corneille, both contribute to the area's grandeur.

As European capital of the Way of Saint James, the town offers pilgrims not only the route to Santiago but also provides accommodation, information and a museum which traces the entire Way of Saint James.



A walk around the upper town provides visitors with a comprehensive overview of 16th, 17th and 18th century architectural styles and offers an opportunity to stroll around the pleasant squares, admiring the many extremely well-preserved private mansions with their colourful and ornate façades.

Dynamic!

A wide range of festivals and activities revolve around local heritage and street arts. The year-round programme of events makes Le Puy a city full of surprises. The medieval festival of the Bird King, held in mid-September, draws tens of thousands of participants and spectators.



Food-loving!

The city's culinary icon, the famous Puy lentil, has now become a celebrated delicacy lauded by the most renowned chefs.

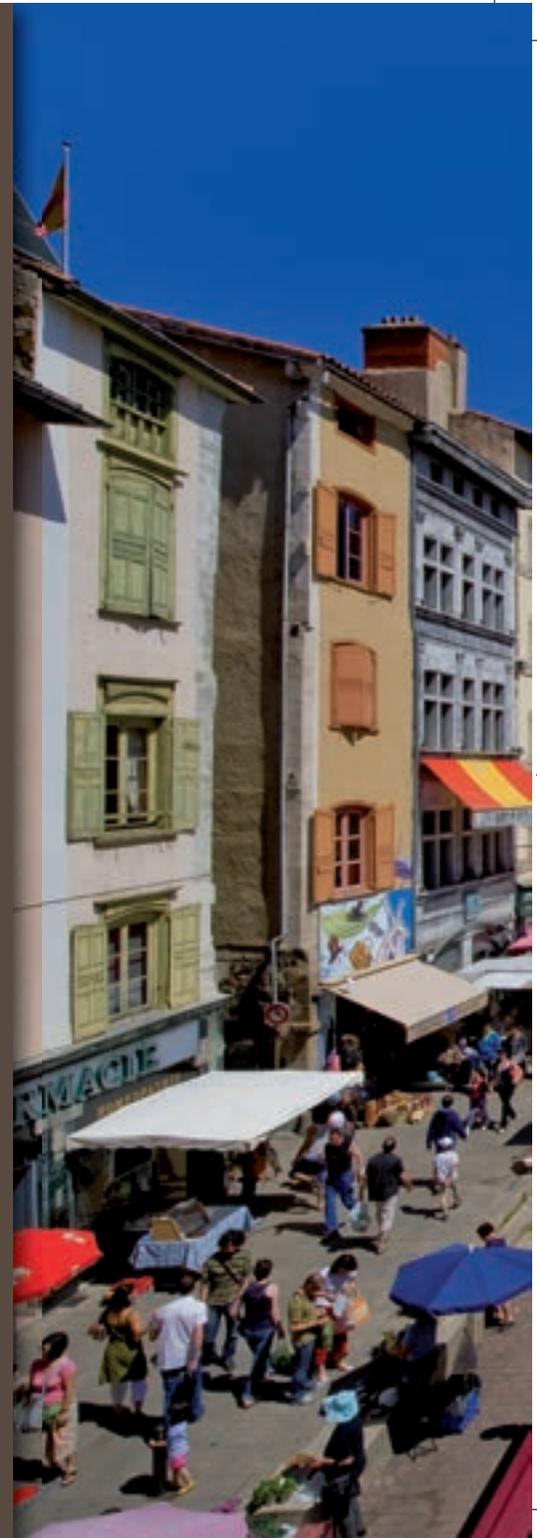
Le Puy lace

European fashion in the 16th century made lace an essential clothing accessory. In around 1860, 130,000 of Haute-Loire's 300,000 inhabitants were lace-makers! After 1900, competition from machine-made lace led to the decline of the hand-made variety.

The Centre d'Enseignement de la Dentelle aux Fuseaux (Bobbin Lace Teaching Centre) has played a prominent and pioneering role in the resurgence of hand-made lace by reviving the manufacture of lace-making equipment (frames, spindles...), publishing documentation (instruction books, patterns,...) and by organising classes and courses.



L'Atelier Conservatoire National de la Dentelle (The National Lace School), set up in 1976 under the authority of the Ministry of Culture, keeps alive the techniques of bobbin lace and creates prestigious pieces using contemporary patterns.



Le Puy-en-Velay

A dynamic, food-loving and friendly...
Capital of lace.



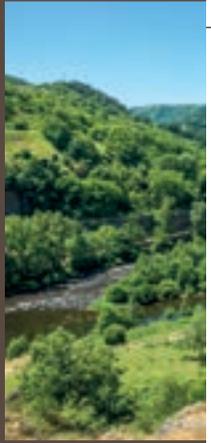
Friendly!

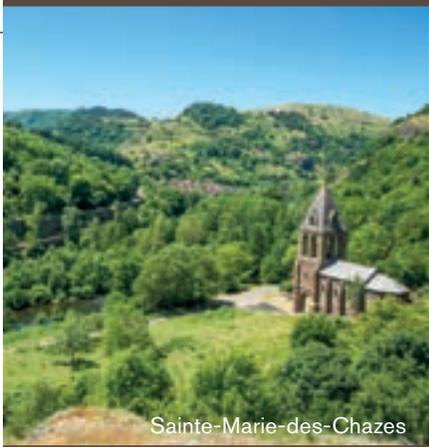
Here in Le Puy, conviviality is a way of life! Visitors always appreciate the colourful atmosphere of the Saturday morning market where country meets town. Held on the Place du Plot, the market offers the full range of farm or wild harvest produce.

The Gorges de l'Allier

An astonishing natural phenomenon

Water and ancient volcanoes carved out these gorges which are characterised by their many picturesque villages and basalt columns. Amid this breath-taking natural environment and amazing terrain, Romanesque art, ancient abbeys and wild beaches reign supreme. The magnificent routes of the Gorges de l'Allier make them the Auvergne's number one destination for those who wish to indulge in rafting, canoeing or kayaking. The train touristique des Gorges de l'Allier offers one of the most scenic train journeys in France. Its route is lined with spectacular views and structures (51 tunnels and 16 viaducts).





Sainte-Marie-des-Chazes



The Domaine du Sauvage,
on the Way of Saint James



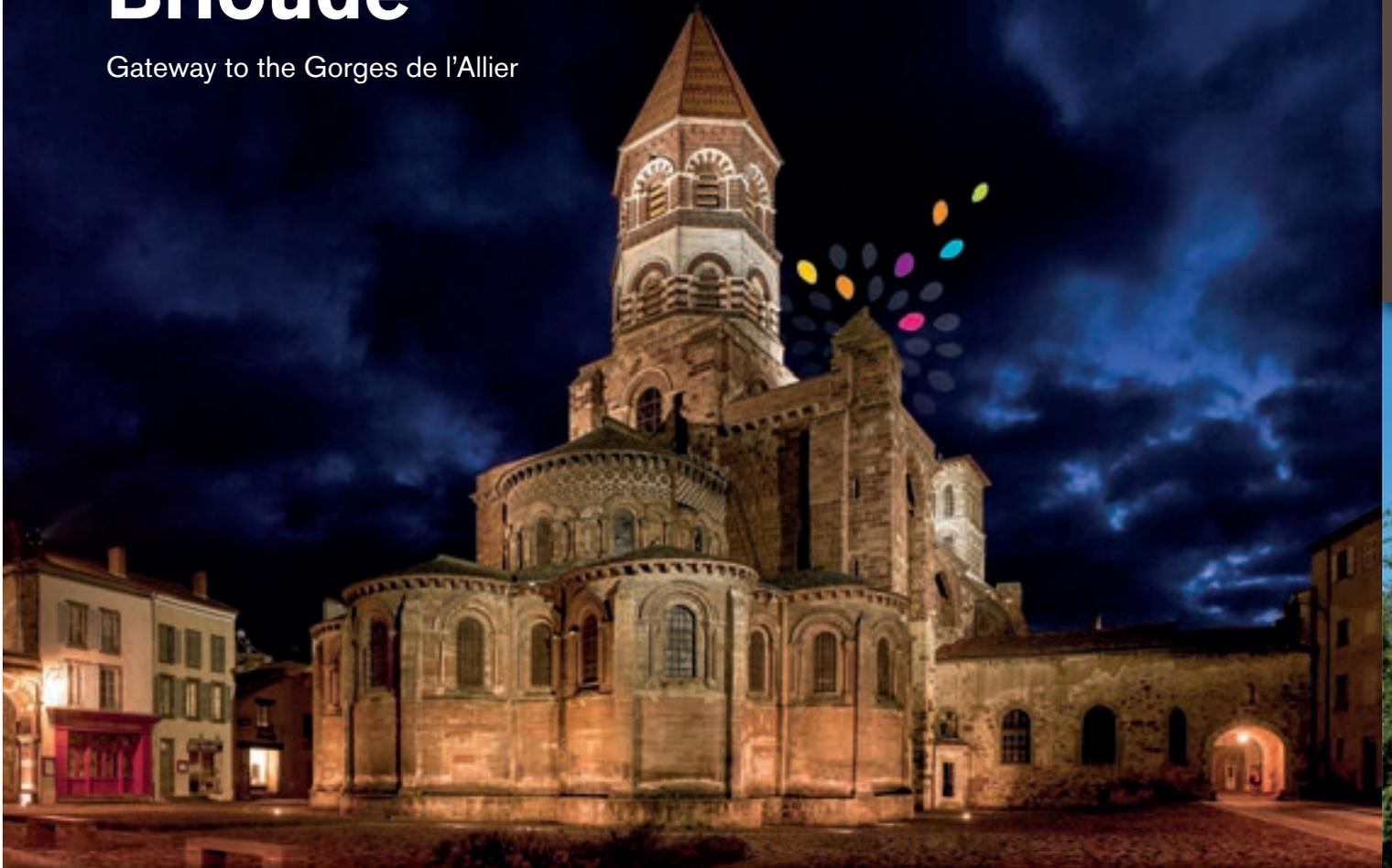
Lac du Bouchet



The village of Lavaudieu

Brioude

Gateway to the Gorges de l'Allier



The pleasant town of Brioude oozes southern charm. It grew up around the Basilica of St-Julien, the largest Romanesque building in the Auvergne, and its famous Hôtel de la Dentelle is a bobbin lace studio which has developed a contemporary, coloured style of lace for the fashion industry.



La Chaise-Dieu

A “cathedral” deep in the forest

Looking down over vast softwood forests, La Chaise-Dieu and its famous abbey church are a haven of serenity. The “Casa Dei” (house of God) is one of the most important Gothic complexes in the Auvergne and visitors cannot fail to admire its magnificent architecture. Outside the period of the famous Music Festival, life at the abbey continues as normal for the brothers of the community of St John, who are also happy to show visitors round this architectural gem.



The château has been awarded the “Maisons des Illustres” (House of the famous) and “Jardin remarquable” (Outstanding garden) titles.



Lafayette

Hero on two continents, champion of freedom

The Château de Chavaniac's famous owner, the Marquis de Lafayette, was born there on September 6, 1757 and lived there during his early childhood.

In 1777, the future “honorary US citizen” began his epic career in America where, alongside George Washington, he became one of the “iconic” figures of the American Revolution. On his return to France, he played an important role in the revolutions of 1789 and 1830 where he fought enthusiastically and passionately for the ideas he had brought back from the United States.

Le Chambon-sur-Lignon

Memorial site

The tradition of hospitality and spirit of resistance of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon and its surrounding villages were powerfully expressed during the Second World War. In response to the influx of refugees, the villages, in a natural and modest way, transformed themselves so as to provide almost as many places of refuge as homes. From among the refugees, many Jews, particularly children, were saved.

In 1990, the residents of Chambon and its neighbouring communes were awarded the Yad Vashem diploma, conferring on them the title **“Righteous among the nations”**.

A remarkable memorial site now serves to illustrate the commitment of the residents to civil, spiritual and also armed resistance. It houses a permanent exhibition, a hall of remembrance and a multimedia area with a learning zone.



Le Mont-Mouchet

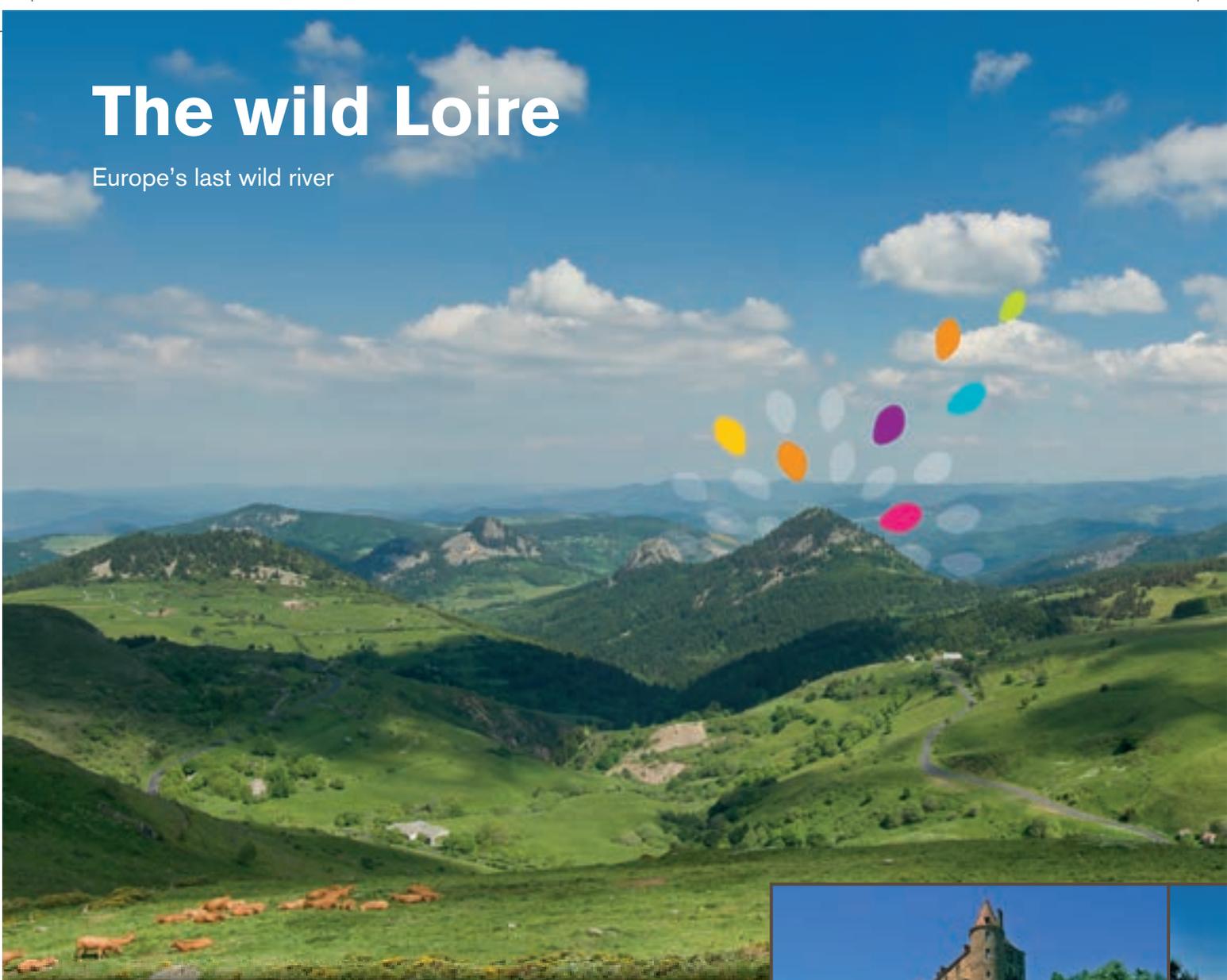
The story of one of France's five main resistance groups.

1,400 metres up, at the foot of one of the Margeride's highest peaks, this site of national importance provides a fun and contemporary atmosphere in which to discover the secrets of the Auvergne Resistance.



The wild Loire

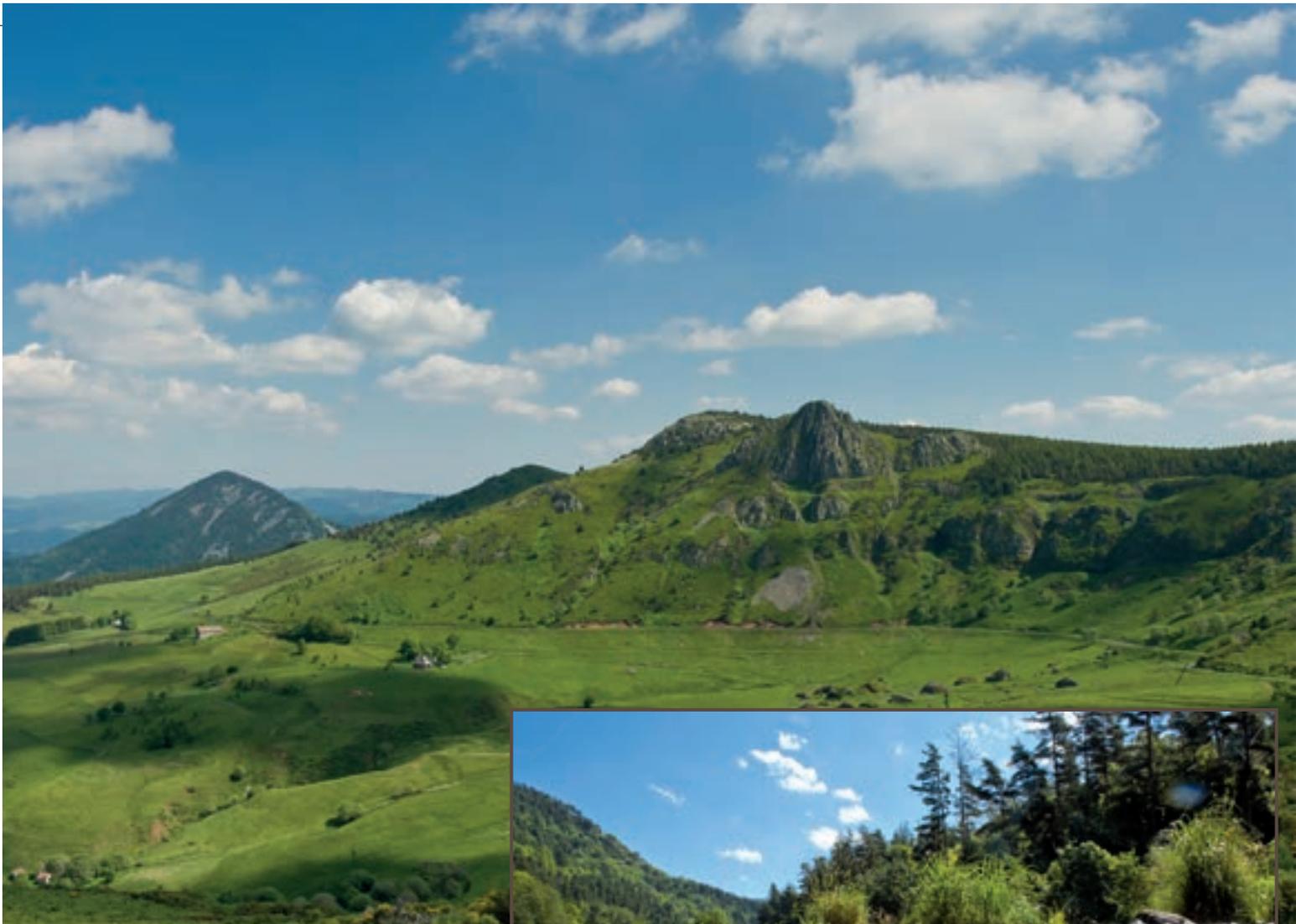
Europe's last wild river



The wild Loire, from its source at Mont Gerbier-de-Jonc, just outside the department, offers **wide open spaces dominated by the Mézenc mountains, breath-taking views**, amazing villages, picturesque roads and some twenty châteaux and fortified houses. The châteaux d'Arlempdes, de Lavoûte-Polignac, d'Artias and de Rochebaron, which overlook the river, are, and will always be, the first châteaux of the Loire!



Château de Lavoûte-Polignac



Haute-Loire welcomes you

Charming places to stay

Whether you prefer a hotel, a bed and breakfast, a gite, a campsite or a holiday village, our hosts will make you feel most welcome. Efficient and attentive to your needs, they will undoubtedly turn you into ambassadors for our wonderful region.





Fine food

Generous, inventive, moreish
or gastronomic...

A visit to Haute-Loire is an opportunity to sample the sweet and savoury flavours of our amazing local products: Puy lentils, Mézenc beef, Mont du Velay veal, Velay black lamb, mountain sausages and hams, "le Velay" cow's cheese, verbena herbal tea or verbena liqueur (by Pagès or home-made), etc.

These unusual and varied foodstuffs, produced by men and women who share a deep attachment to their land, are lauded by creative chefs whose expertise has been recognised by many guides and organisations (Michelin stars and bibs, Logis de France, Toques d'Auvergne, Maîtres Restaurateurs,..).

Régis Marcon, a famous chef in Saint-Bonnet-Le-froid, is a superb ambassador for the fine food of Haute-Loire and the Ecole Nationale Supérieure de la Pâtisserie has made Yssingaux the baking capital of the world.



Nature-based activities

A perfect playground



Marvellous walking country, the Haute-Loire department boasts an unparalleled network of short and long-distance footpaths. The legendary Way of Saint James to Santiago de Compostela (GR65) and the Stevenson Trail (GR70) are the most well known. Whatever the time of year, there is nothing like a walk or mountain bike ride along the signposted paths to stir all your senses. What's more, the geography of the southern Auvergne is perfect for even more scenic walks and cycle tours in spring and autumn. Clean, crystal-clear, sometimes bubbling, and always invigorating, water is never in short supply. And there are a host of ways to enjoy it: swimming, water sports, fishing...

Practical information

How to get here

By car:

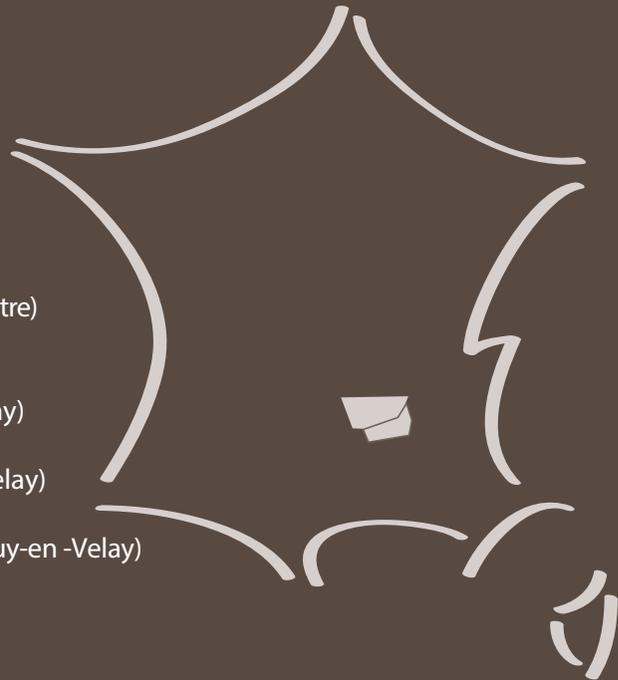
- From Lyon (A47, RN88) - 1 hour
- From Clermont-Ferrand (A75, RN102) - 1½ hours
- From Aubenas and Privas - 1 hour
- From Valence - 1½ hours

By train:

- TGV from Saint-Étienne and Lyon
- Saint-Étienne - Le Puy line

By air:

- Le Puy-en-Velay/Loudes Airport (10 mins from city centre)
Regular service to Paris (Orly Sud)
- St-Etienne-Bouthéon International Airport
(approximately 1 hour's drive from Le Puy-en -Velay)
- Lyon-Saint Exupéry International Airport
(approximately 1½ hour's drive from Le Puy-en -Velay)
- Clermont-Ferrand Auvergne International Airport
at Aulnat (approximately 1½ hour's drive from Le Puy-en -Velay)



We are here to help:

Maison du Tourisme de la Haute-Loire

Hôtel du Département - 1, place Monseigneur de Galard

43000 Le Puy-en-Velay - FRANCE

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www.auvergnevacances.com

For further information about Haute-Loire visit
www.auvergnevacances.com

**Unmissable places to visit, charming accommodation and restaurants,
nature-based activities, ideas for visits, events and festivals,
weather forecasts, webcam...and an interactive map to see
what's available where you are!**



Mobile phone and tablet-friendly!



So what are you
waiting for?
Scan Haute-Loire
here!

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as part of its economic and tourism development policy.


**CONSEIL
GÉNÉRAL
Haute-Loire**