

Day excursions in the Vallée de la Têt

The Têt Valley is known as the Pays d'Art et d'Histoire. The capital, the historic Gothic city of Perpignan, was a capital of the Kingdom of Majorca in the 13th and 14th centuries. Among Perpignan's many landmarks in the old fortified town is the Castillet, an imposing entrance to the city. Further up the valley, the monumental treasures include Saint Michel de Cuixà (879), the abbey of Saint Martin du Canigou (1005), the priory of Serrabone (1069) and some of 'Les Plus Beaux Villages de France'. Among them, the UNESCO World Heritage listed Villefranche-de-Conflent, a fortified medieval town with a backdrop of the fantastic Canigou mountain.



1: The Orgues of Ille-sur-Tet, 2: Villefranche-de-Conflent, 3: The ancient walled city of Carcassonne with its 53 towers

EXCURSION 1: Céret and Elne

The morning is dedicated to the beautiful rural market of Céret. Our afternoon focuses on the historical capital of Elne, which had supremacy over Perpignan from the 6th to the 19th century. Discover its majestic cathedral, cloister and traditional arts

Workshops: Learn how to distinguish Elne's Roman Art from its Gothic counterpart. Wine tasting in Banyuls-dels-Aspres.

EXCURSION 2: Cabestany, Canet and Perpignan

Visit Cabestany Museum, named for the famous medieval sculptor, the Master of Cabestany. Lunch at Perpignan, then a guided tour of the city and museum, a great opportunity to experience the beauty, history and grandeur of this medieval town.

Workshop: Wine tasting in Canet-en-Roussillon

EXCURSION 3: Prades, Eus and Villefranche-de-Conflent

Start the day strolling through Prades' provincial market. Head to Eus (one of 'Les Plus Beaux Villages de France') for lunch on a panoramic terrace. In the afternoon, free tour of the UNESCO-listed fortified town of

The Grottes de Canalette



Villefranche-de-Conflent. Finally, take a tour of the spectacular 'Grottes de Canalette' and its hidden geological gems.

EXCURSION 4: Ille-sur-Têt, Caramany and Ansignan

We'll dedicate most of the day to the natural heritage of the Conflent. You'll have the opportunity to walk along the Orgues of Ille-sur-Têt and the lake of Caramany. Last but not least, you'll discover

the Roman aqueduct of Ansignan.

EXCURSION 5: Castelnou, Thuir and Trouillas

Guided tour of Castelnou, a medieval cobblestone village and its Château Vicomtal. Watch the local artisans at work. Have lunch overlooking the valley. Afternoon tasting of local products: - choose from a goat cheese factory "la Fromagerie la Pastoure" or visit le Mas Sabine for its various farm products including olive oil. End by visiting the famous winemaking Caves de Byrrh at Thuir or the Château du Mas Deu at Trouillas. A day to try local terroir products.

EXCURSION 6: Carcassonne and Canal du Midi

A day further afield to discover the fantastic medieval city of Carcassonne. Take a wonderful guided tour along the Canal du Midi on a relaxing 2-hour boat cruise with lunch on board.