



## Aillou Land belvederes, 7 days

- ✓ Easy trek, suitable for families with young children.
- ✓ 7 days, possible in 6 days.
- ✓ All inclusive package (board in gite) or simple rent of a donkey.
- ✓ Accommodation in hotel, gite and mountain refuge or campsite or wilderness camping.
- ✓ Starting Point: Prades.
- ✓ End of walk : Prades
- ✓ Altitude between 1000 and 1700m.
- ✓ Dogs are allowed

This trip is ideal for families wanting an easy walk: often on a pastoral path or forest trail (no big heights), young kids can stay on the donkeys' back or lead the donkey.

The first two evening, you are welcome in a hotel and a gite in typical mountain villages with red-tile roofed hamlets. In the day, as soon as you leave the village, you discover magnificent mountain sceneries with mountain pastures or forests. You learn about Catharism history: Montailou is dominated by the sparse walls of its castle.

You will come across the tiny Aillou region, a 1200 m high plateau which shelters four villages.

Finally, you will reach the grassy mountains and forests of the soft Chioula Plateau. You come back to Prades village which is both the starting point and the end of the trip.

Throughout your trek you will see the life of these gentle mountains: breeders, cowherds, herds of cows, sheep and sometimes horses.

This circuit appeals to the whole family.

The adults and teenagers will appreciate the diversity and the beauty of the landscapes. If the season suits, they will collect blueberries, raspberries or mushrooms.

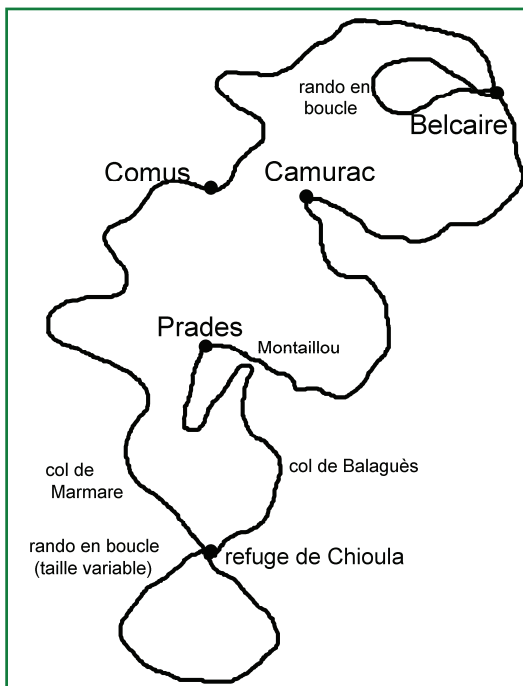
For this trek, you can choose all included package with the donkey(s) and board or the simple rent of donkey if you want to camp for example.

### All inclusive package, half board or full board

#### The steps day by day

##### Day 1 : from Prades (1250 m) to Camurac (1200 m) 5h by the mountain or 1h30

You cross the small Aillou plateau dominated by Montailou. Even if the ruins of its castle are scarce, the 20 inhabitants village



is well-known history. Pamiers bishop, Jacques Fournier, a very famous inquisitor (and ethnologist beforehand), left many registers in which he recorded the village inhabitants' testimonials. Taking those documents as a basis that accurately described the life of lower and modest classes, Emmanuel Leroy Ladurie wrote his history book "Montailou, village Occitan"

Your first step is Camurac, village with only a main street dotted with huge water troughs.

Depending on the weather, health, departure time, you can reach it very quickly (1h30) through the plateau, with almost no elevation. It good to have a short first stage to get to know your new companion.

If the weather is good and everybody good walkers, you can go through peaks at 1600 m altitude with a beautiful view. This first step needs around 5hours :12 km long, from 1200m to 1700 m high. You sleep and eat in stage lodging La Marmite, where awaits Alain. +33(4) 68 20 73 31. <http://www.gites-camurac.com>.

##### Day 2 : from Camurac (1200 m) to Belcaire (1000 m) 3h

You follow a forest trail first with mountain pastures all around you then in forest. You go to Belcaire, in the heart of the Plateau de Sault.

The accommodation is a familial hotel where you meet Xavier and Sandrine.

Hotel +33(0)4 68 20 31 05. Only day with possible providing. [www.hotel-bayle.com](http://www.hotel-bayle.com).

**Day 3 : A day at Belcaire or walk around Belcaire (1000 m), you can choose the duration**

Belcaire Pond is reserved each afternoon for swimming and it always enjoys walkers. You will spend a pleasant day there: bathing and walking to discover the landscape around the village.

You can choose to hike all the day. You enjoy the beautiful view between Belcaire and Roquefeuil. You come back by an other path.

**Day 4 : from Belcaire (1000 m) to Comus (1200 m) 4h**

Along wide pastoral and forestry tracks, you will reach Comus, a charming village, where you'll meet Anne and her excellent welcome in her gîte. You go to the belvedere overlooking the Montsegur castle and Gorges de la Frau Gîte and you cross the beautiful Pla du Boum. Tel +33(0)4 68 20 33 69 .<http://www.gites-comus.com>.

**Day 5 : from Comus (1200 m) to Refuge du Chioula (1600 m) 5h**

You walk through mountain pastures and forests, going to Chioula refuge and its magnificent panorama of the Pyrenean peaks. It is the sportiest day because the course is quite long. In refuge du Chioula, you sleep in shared dormitory. The refuge is very clean and well adapted for families with young children or babies. Refuge du Chioula. +33(0)5 61 64 06 97 [www.refugeduchioula.com](http://www.refugeduchioula.com).

**Day 6 : Walk around Refuge du Chioula (1600 m), you can choose the duration**

Right in the middle of the forests and the pastures, Chioula refuge is the starting point of many easy walks . On one side you are above the Ariège Valley, with Sault Plateau on the other side, surrounded by beautiful landscapes. You can find blueberries and raspberries

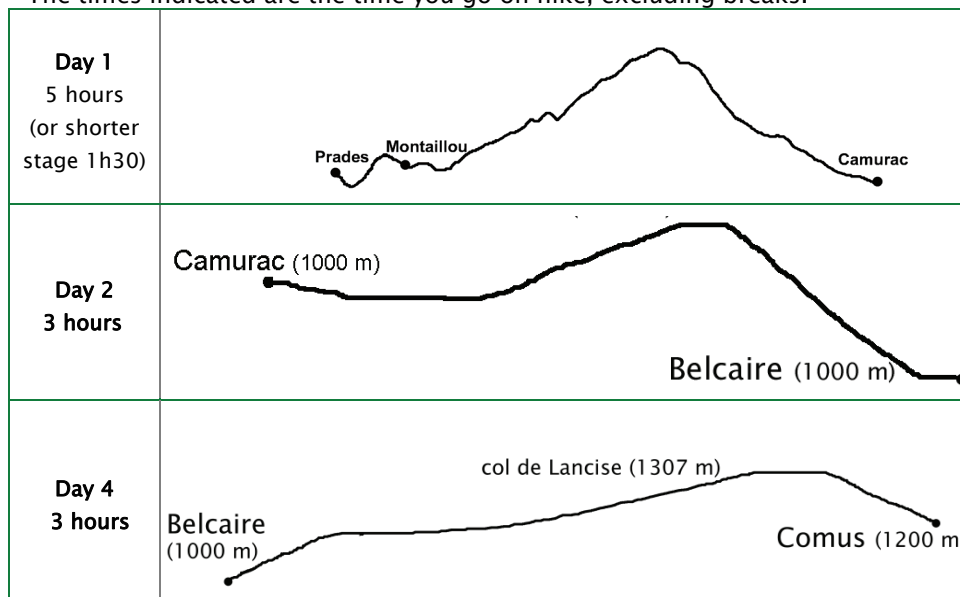
**Day 7 : from Refuge du Chioula (1600 m) to Prades (1250 m) 4h**

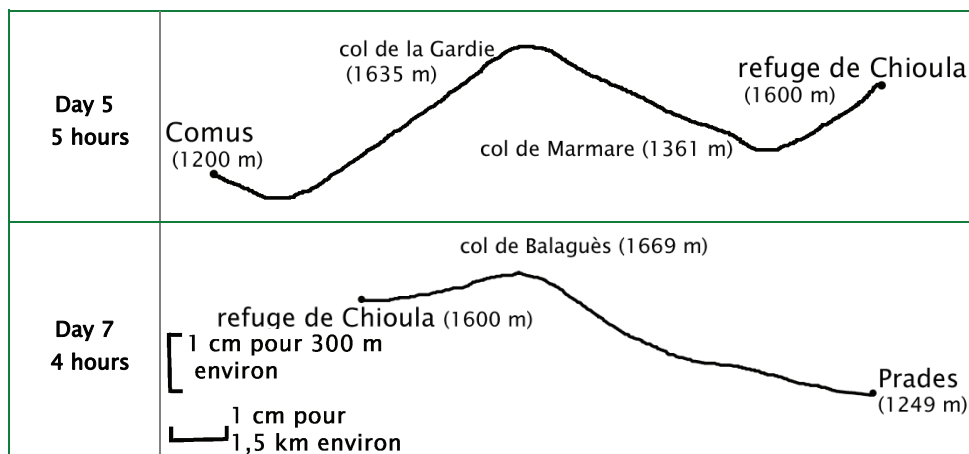
You are on the path GR107 (Bonshommes Path) until the highest point of your hike: Balaguès Pass (1669 m). Scenery is magnificent. You see the Pyrenean chain and you have typical mountain vegetation all around you: gentian, aconite, blueberry... The path GR 107 or Bonshommes path was used by last Cathars who fled to Spain.

You go down slowly until Prades where you finish your tour. It's time to say good bye to your long eared friend.

Each day, you can hike on a shorter variant that passes at the bottom of the valley. So, if you want to have a quiet day or if the weather is not favorable, you can easily continue your hike to the next accommodation with a short stage.

The times indicated are the time you go on hike, excluding breaks.





## Prices

We propose this trek in 7 days. You can do a 6 days trek if you choose to stay one night in Belcaire or in Refuge du Chioula.

	Adult		Child 4-11 years		Young children 2-3 years	
	Half board	Full board	Half board	Full board	Half board	Full board
<b>7days (6 nights)</b>	<b>520 €</b>	<b>588 €</b>	<b>403 €</b>	<b>459 €</b>	<b>341 €</b>	<b>392 €</b>
6 days (5 nights)	445 €	502 €	349 €	397 €	296 €	337 €

5 people or more	-6%
10 people or more	-12%

**Enfant de moins de 2 ans : gratuit.**

This all inclusive package includes the donkey (1 donkey for 2 or 3 people), its pack-saddle and bags, accommodation, transportation of the donkey and maps (IGN 1/25000ème TOP 25 Ax les Thermes n°2148ET) and:

- **half-board** (night+breakfast+evening meal)
- **full board** (night+breakfast+evening meal+picnic except picnic of the day 1)

It's not included: hot shower in Chioula refuge, drink, the board the day before your trek.

You need a sheet sleeping bag to sleep in refuge and gîte. They have blankets. You need your towel, soap... You may be in shared rooms.

There is a stockyard near each accommodation for your donkey. We explain you how to give it some hay and water.

## Simple rent of a donkey

You can hike the same trek with just the rent of the donkey. You can organize yourself the booking of your accommodation or choose to camp near the accommodation or do wilderness camp. You can camp and book your meals in accommodation.

### You want to camp near accommodation :

At Camurac : camping Les Sapins. You make the park for the donkey in the place indicated by the owner of the campsite. [www.lessapins-camurac.com](http://www.lessapins-camurac.com). +33(0)4.68.20.38.11.

At Belcaire : little welcoming camping near the pond. Snack. [www.camping-pyrenees-cathare.fr](http://www.camping-pyrenees-cathare.fr) +33(0)4.68.20.39.47

At Comus : The gîte d'étape Le silence du Midi has a camping ground. You can go in the common area where you can use an equipped kitchen. [www.lesilencedumidi.com](http://www.lesilencedumidi.com) +33(0)4.68.20.36.26.

At refuge du Chioula : you can camp near the refuge and you have to pay something. You can use toilets and can enjoy of the common area (but you can't cook because there isn't common kitchen) if it's not full. [www.refugeduchioula.com](http://www.refugeduchioula.com) +33(0)5.61.64.06.97.

 **You want to camp on the wilderness:**

When we meet the day before your trek, we explain you where you can camp on the wilderness, near springs. But in Belcaire, you have to camp in the municipal campsite. Near Comus, it depends if the spring flows.

 **Map**

You need map 1/25000ème TOP 25 AX LES THERMES n° 2148 ET by IGN.



 **Prices**

Rent of a donkey with its pack-saddle, rope and bags.

<b>7 days</b>	<b>318 €</b>
6 days	292 €
Transportation of donkey	<b>55€</b>

<b>Donkey 2 : -10%</b>
<b>Donkey 3 and more : -15%</b>

A donkey carries 40 kg, the luggage of 2 or 3 people.



For more information: +33(6).85.34.20.22 or [contact@la-ferme-aux-anes.com](mailto:contact@la-ferme-aux-anes.com)

You have to fill the [form](#) to book and to do a transfer bank of 30% of the price.