Trip description

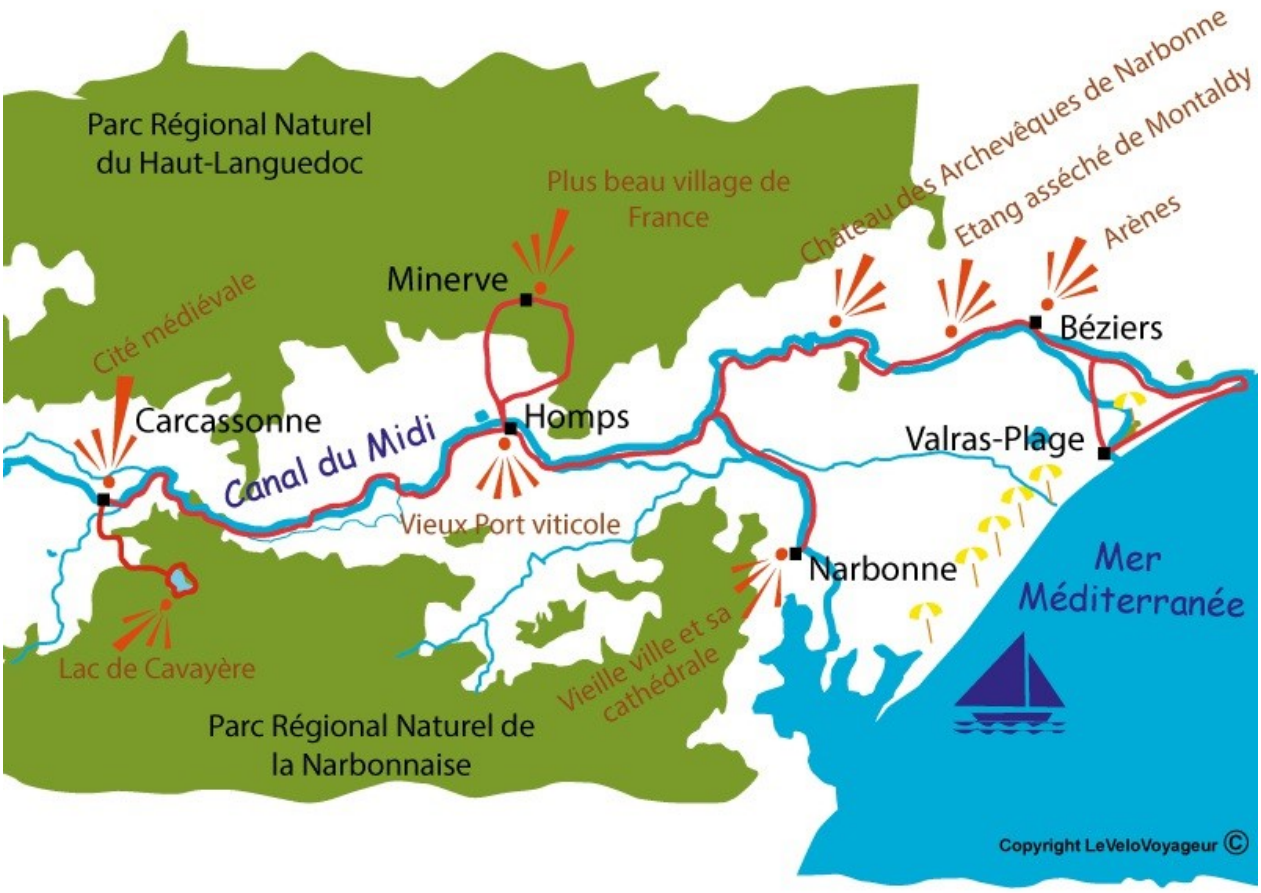
Cycling Canal du Midi from Carcassonne to Béziers

On this bike tour, you ride along the Canal du Midi but not only. Discover the history of the cathar country and enjoy the sweet life of the South of France.

Destination	France
Location	Canal du Midi
Duration	8 days
Difficulty Level	Moderate
Validity	From Apr 28 to Oct 2
Minimum age	10 years
Reference	M0701

Type of stay
itinerant trip

Itinerary



The Canal du Midi was originally an idea of the Romans, but it was only built in the 17th century thanks to the genius of Pierre-Paul Riquet. You ride

along the Canal du Midi from Castelnaudary to Béziers. The cool shade of the trees, the swaying of the barges and the splashing of water of the Canal du Midi flavour your journey. On these biking holidays, you enjoy the legendary sweetness of the Southern France life, the Cathar country and the long beaches of the Mediterranean Sea.

Ride up the canal to Castelnaudary to taste the famous Cassoulet. You also taste all the other local culinary delights of the region and discover its rich history. Cross the Cathar country and discover the amazing fortress of Carcassonne, visit the Roman ruins, admire the Cathedral of Narbonne or the old city center of Béziers. You finally ride through the marshes among the bulls and pink flamingos to finish your journey on the white beaches of the Mediterranean Sea.
center of Béziers. You finally ride through the marshes among the bulls and pink flamingos to finish your journey on the white beaches of the Mediterranean Sea.

DAY 1

Carcassonne

Discover the charming old city of Carcassonne and especially take time to visit the impressing and remarkably restored fortress, which overlooks the city and the Canal du Midi.

DAY 2

Day-trip from Cascassonne

Bike
24km

The stage of the day is a short loop tour through the outskirts of Carcassonne. It takes you first around the unmissable medieval city of Carcassonne and then to the Lake of La Cavayère, where you can enjoy a swim or a relaxing moment on the beach. On the way back, you enjoy the marvellous views on the medieval fortress on top of the local vineyards!

Bike
24km

DAY 3

Carcassonne - Homps

Bike
40km

You leave the busy city and enjoy the calm of the canal. Stroll under the plane trees and cypresses, surrounded by vineyards. Enjoy a day outside: the calm nature is only disrupted by the animation of the cute villages. Admire the many works of art, built on the canal between 1666 and 1680, like the aqueduct of Orbiel.

Bike
40km

DAY 4

Round trip to Minerve

Bike
36km

Altitude
±320m

You can either choose to explore the nearby lake or visit the fortified Cathar villages in the hinterland like Minerve, which is one of the "Loveliest Villages in France". You meander through the gorges of the Cesse and stop to admire the breath-taking scenery. The route is much hillier than the canal, but really worth the effort.

Bike
36km

DAY 5

Homps - Narbonne

Bike
35km

You continue to ride along the Canal du Midi, quietly enjoying the cool shade of plane trees and pines and the slapping sound of water against the barges.

Bike
35km

DAY 6

Narbonne - Béziers

Bike
46km

You ride slowly along the Canal de la Robine to reach the village of Sallèles-d'Aude, then you cut through fields and dried up ponds to get back along the Canal du Midi. The bravest will climb up the hill to discover the oppidum, others will continue towards the Malpas tunnel, an impressive work carved into the rock. The most impressive staircase lock awaits you just before reaching the old city center of Béziers : the 9 locks of Fonserannes.

Bike
46km

DAY 7

Round trip to the Mediterranean sea

Bike
42km

You continue to ride down the Canal du Midi, then venture out on the dried up ponds. Enjoy this nature full of horses, bulls and wild birds, even flamingos, conveying a "Camargue" atmosphere. Reach the Mediterranean Sea on time for a lunch on the beach before returning to Beziers.

Bike
42km

DAY 8

Departure from Béziers

The regional train (TER) takes you back to Béziers if you wish.

Accommodation

Category A

You stay in hotels with ** standards offering all the necessary comfort after a day outdoors. These family hotels welcome you warmly. Breakfast is included.

** Example of the type of accommodation*

Category B

You stay in hotels with *** standards or bed & breakfasts selected for their style and quality. Breakfast is included.

** Example of the type of accommodation*

Practical information

To get to departure point:

By plane: regular flights to Toulouse or Ryanair flights to Carcassonne from London Stanted, Liverpool, Eindhoven, etc. Bus connection every 30 min to the city center of Carcassonne (5€/pers). The bus ticket is valid on the public transport network for an hour.
By train: **TGV (fast trains) from Paris Gare de Lyon** and connection in Lyon/Narbonne/Montpellier to take a regional train to Carcassonne. The duration of the trip is about 6h00. To plan your trip, www.raileurope.com.

Parking

If you drive to Carcassonne, you can park your car in a secured car park located in the city center, close to your accommodation. The daily rate is 7€. Please book upon booking.

You can park also your car in the free open public car park located on each side on Pont Vieux.

All details will be given in your travel documents.

To get back to starting point:

Regional trains take you back to your starting point if you wish. They are accessible without booking in advance and bicycles are free. You have to buy your ticket on spot (full rate 15.20€/adult). You will find the timetable of the day in your travel documents.

Meeting time:

The first day is an arrival day without cycling. You arrive whenever you want depending on from where you come. Please note that rooms are usually available in the middle of the afternoon depending on your accommodation. We thank you to advise us if you plan to arrive late.

Price description

Category A **759 €**/pers
Double room fare

7 nights in ** hotels an B&B
7 breakfasts
6-day rental of a fully-equipped bike (sadddle bags, locks, toolkit)
the luggage transport
a road book with maps, descriptions of the routes and tourist informations
the delivery and return of the bikes
local visitors' taxes
sending charge of the travel documents in France
7/7 hotline

High season (*) 45 €/pers

Half-board 165 €(7 dinner)

Extra for a single room	47 €/night
Extra night in Carcassonne	50 €/pers
Extra night in Béziers	55 €/pers

Category B — **969 €**/pers

Double room fare

7 nights in *** hotels or bed & breakfasts
7 breakfasts
6-day rental of a fully-equipped bike (packs, helmets, locks…)
the luggage transport
a road book with maps, descriptions of the routes and tourist informations
the delivery and return of the bikes
local visitors' taxes
sending charge of the travel documents in France
7/7 hotline

High season (*)	50 €/pers
Half-board	190 € (7 dinners)
Extra for a single room	67 €/night
Extra night in Carcassonne	60 €/pers
Extra night in Béziers	100 €/pers

Options

Discount if you ride your own bicycle	-120 €/pers
Extra for the rental of an electric bike	45 €/pers
Entry to the medieval fortress in Carcassonne	8,5 €/adult
Low season luggage transport extra (until April 28th and starting October,1st)	88 €/pers

(*) **High season** :
from 30.06 to 01.09.2018

Children discount (in the same room as 2 full rate participants):
0-4 years: -70%
5-11 years: -50%
12-17 years: -30%

The package doesn't include:
the journey to the tour location
the drinks
the meals which are not included
the entrance fee to sites
insurances (optional)

For more information or booking : www.levelovoyageur.com
+33 (0)1 80 91 98 18 or bonjour@levelovoyageur.com