

## **FRANCE ITINERARIES 2006 – 2017 (1. Summaries; 2. Complete itineraries)**

### **1. Summary of all itineraries**

**2017.** Ouistraham, Bonneval; Jars\*; La Celle en Morvan\*; Montrevel en Bresse\*; St Genix sur Guiers\*; Nevache \*; Larche; Le Vernet\* St Laurent du Verdon; Lambesc\*; Le Clos du Rhone; Sommieres (Masserau campsite) \*; Pailleres (SW of Villefort)\*; Col du croix de Bor; Trizac; Evaux les Bains; Rosnay; Savigny sur Bray\*; Merville-Franceville Plage\*, Ouistraham, home.

**2016.** Ouistraham, Les Rosiers sur Loire; Rosnay in Brenne; Le Bugue; St Antonin Noble Val; Les Cammazes; Serignan-Plages; Tuchan; (Perpignan airport) Tuchan; Puivert; Matamale; Font-Romeu; Argeles Plages; Tuchan; Perpignan airport, St-Pons-de-Thomieres; St-Maurice-Navacelles, [wrongly taken Diversion around cirque de Navacelles] Le Vigan; Col de la Croix de Bor; Fay-sur-Lignon; Chatel-Montagne; Pouilly-sur-Loire; Bonneval; Merville-Franceville-Plage; Ouistraham, Portsmouth, Home.

**2015.** Ouistraham, *Lac Rille*; La Chaise Dieu; Luc en Diois; Larche; St Laurent; Avignon; Airport to say goodbye to Hugh; Le Vigan; Lac de Naussac; Col de la Croix-de-Bor; St. Flour, Argentat; Poinsouze; Lac des Varennes; Merville-Franceville-plage; Ouistraham, Portsmouth, Southampton.

**2014.** Ouistraham, Lac Rille; Le Bugue; St Cricq, Lac de Thoux Matamale; Argeles-s-Mer; Perpignan airport, Tuchan; Gleon; Le Vigan; Lac Naussac; Rosnay; Bournan, Saumur; Sille-la-Guillaume; Merville-Franceville Plage; Ouistraham; Portsmouth.

**2013.** Ouistraham, Lac Rille; St.-Paulien, Rochelambert; Menglon; Larche; Nr. Niozelles; Avignon; Les Saintes Maries de la Mer; St. Julien de la Nef; Le Vigan, Causse Mejean; Lac Naussac; Croix de la Col de Bor; Trizac; Chatelus Malveix, Boursolles near Roche; Rosnay; Domaine Coton at Le Perriere; Belleme; Ouistraham,

**2012.** Ouistraham, Lac Rille; Argentat; Le Bugue; Lac de Thoux; Matamale; Argeles-s-Mer; Tuchan; Gleon; Frontagnan, Le Vigan, Causse Mejean; Col de Croix de Bor; Neuveglise; Trizac; Val de Vassiviere; Rosnay; Saumur; Falaise; Ouistraham, Portsmouth.

**2011.** Ouistraham Poinsouze; Vorey; Lus la Croix Haute; Larche; St. Laurent du Verdon; Avignon; Saintes Maries de la Mer; Le Vigan; Randals Bison [Causse Noir]; Causse Mejean; Ste. Enimie; Trizac; Evaux les Bains; St. Satur/St Thibault; La Ferte Bernard; Ouistraham,

**2010.** Ouistraham, Airvault; Bugue; Azur; Sauveterres de Bearn; Lescun; Oust; Matamale; Argeles-Plage; Perpignan Airport; Gleon; Stes-Maries-de-la-Mer; Lanuejols (Causse noir); Causse Mejean; Col de la Croix de Bor; Trizac; Boussac; Belleme; Ouistraham, Portsmouth.

**2009.** Portsmouth - Ouistraham – Saumur, Argentat - Trizac - Finiel - St Laurent, Vence near Nice - [Hugh flies home] - Col de la Bonnette -Larche - Laye and Lus de la Croix Haute - Chatillion - St Sauveur [Ardeches] - Chaises Dieu - Aufueilles - St. Satur - Belleme in - Ouistraham.

**2008.** Ouistraham, Richelieu, Argentat, St. Cricq, Matemale, Egat, Argeles - s - Mer, Touchan, Rieumontagne, Causses Mejean, Crox de Bor, Trizac, Le Bourg d'Hem, Le Ferte Bernard, Caen.

**2007.** St. Satur, Meyrieu les Etaings, Valnontey (Italy), La Larche, La Farigoulette. St. Laurent, Avignon, Saintes Maries de la Mer, Le Pont de Montvert. Near Finiel, Trizac, La Ferte Bernard

**2006.** Saumur, Argentat, Touflailles, Carcassoe, Matemale, Argeles, St Pons de Thomieres, Causse Mejean, Chatel-Montagne, Senonches, Ouistraham.

## 2. Complete itineraries

### France 2017 Itinerary

**Tuesday 6th June – Tuesday 11th July.** Liz + Chris in Campervan (Lifestyle). Hugh unable to come as he had earlier big Australian holiday.

Ferry Portsmouth to Caen (Ouistraham). Just Chris and Liz. Total: 1,750 miles; (2,800 km).

#### Summary

Ouistraham, Nr Argentan, Mortagne au Perche, Nogent le Rotrou, Brou, **Bonneval**; Meung sur Loire, Aubigny sur Nere, Vailly sur Sauldre, **Jars\***; Pouilly sur Loire, Corbigny, Chateau Chinon, **La Celle en Morvan\***; Autun, Montceau les Mines, Cluny, Pertuis, **Montrevel en Bresse\***; by motorway (A40) around Bourg en Bresse, Amberieu en Bugey, Belley, **St Genix sur Guiers\***; Motorway (A43) around Chambéry, South to St Jean de Maurienne, Valloire, Col du Galibier, Briancon, Vallee de la Claree, **Nevalche \***; Briancon, Guillestre, Col de Vars, St Paul sur Ubaye, **Larche**; Barcelonnette, Le Lauzet-Ubaye, Seyne, **Le Vernet\*** (a perfect drive); Col du Latouret, Digne les Bains, Riez, **St Laurent du Verdon**; Quinson, Tavernes, Rians, Peyrolles, Rognes, **Lambesc\***; St Cannat, past Salon en Provence, St Martin Arles, **Le Clos du Rhone** (near Stes Maries de la Mer; Montcalm, Etaing de Charnier, **Sommieres (Masserau campsite) \***; Ledignan, Ales, Portes, Villefort, **Pailleres (SW of Villefort)\***; Chasserades, Chateauneuf de Randon, , **Col du croix de Bor**; St Alban sur Limagnole, St Flour, Riom es Montagnes, **Trizac**; Bort les Orgues, Ussel, La Courtine, , Aubussan, **Evaux les Bains**; Boussac, La Chatre, St Gaultier, Ciron, **Rosnay**; Mezieres en Brenne, Chatillon sur Indre, Loche, Amboise, Montoire sur Loire, **Savigny sur Bray\***; St Calais, La Ferte Bernard, Mortagne au Perche, Gace, Vimoutiers, Livarot, Troarn, Cabourg, **Merville-Franceville Plage\***, Ouistraham, home.

**\*New campsite.**

#### Detailed itinerary and campsites

*Ouistraham, Falaise, Nr Argentan, Le Merlerault, Mortagne au Perche, Belleme, Nogent le Rotrou, Brou, Bonneval [153 miles]*

**7<sup>th</sup> June. Wednesday. Bonneval, Bois de Chievres. 2 nights.** Nice wooded site. Friendly owners (Michel Vuillon, falconer) with excellent Pizzas, Nice bike rides and walks. Great tit nest in electricity box.

*Patay, Meung sur Loire, Lamotte Beuvron, Aubigny sur Nere, Vailly sur Sauldre, Jars [108 miles]*

**9<sup>th</sup> June. Friday. Jars [Cher 18]. 1 night. France Passion site\*.** By lake on goat farm. Good toilets and bar. Can see goats being milked.

*West of Sancerre, Vinon, Pouilly sur Loire, Narcy, Premery, Corbigny, Chateau Chinon, La Celle en Morvan [103 miles]*

**10<sup>th</sup> June. Saturday. 2 nights. La Celle en Morvan [Saone et Loire, 71]. Les deux Rivieres\*.** Pool. Well organised Dutch site shady by river. Hoopoes, nightingales, damselflies. Nice walks. Boules tournament.

*Autun, Mont Cenis, Blanzly (diversion), Montceau les Mines, Mont-St-Vincent, Cluny, Donzy le Pertuis, Pont de Vaux, Montrevel en Bresse [97 miles]*

**12<sup>th</sup> June. Monday. 1 night. Montrevel en Bresse [Ain 1]. La Pleine Tonique.** Huge site with pools (closed), and lake shop (closed) and restaurant (good). Good for children. Not for us.

*By motorway (A40) around Bourg en Bresse, Amberieu en Bugey, St Rambert en Bugey, Belley, St Genix sur Guiers [79 miles]*

**13 June. Tuesday. 1 night. St Genix sur Guiers [Savoie 73]. Les Bords du Giers\*.** Dutch site (Ludo and Ria). Very well-run. Excellent restaurant and nearby supermarket. Small pool. Nice walks.

*Motorway (A43) around Chambéry, South to St Jean de Maurienne, St Michel de Maurienne, Valloire, Col du Galibier/Col du Lauteret, Briançon, Vallee de la Claree, Val des Pres, Navache [129 miles]*

**14<sup>th</sup> June, Wednesday. 2 nights. Nevache [Hautes Alpes, 05]. La Lame de Provence\*.** Very long site by river. Only just opened. Shop in village. Great views of mountains. Nice walks. Beautiful valley.

*Briançon, L'Argentiere la Bessee, Guillestre, Vars, Col de Vars, St Paul sur Ubaye, Meyronne, Larche [63 miles]*

**16<sup>th</sup> June. Friday. 4 nights. Larche. Les Marmottes.** Mr Durand's wonderful site nearly 6000 ft up Col du Larche. Boef Bourguignon. Vultures, winchats. Wonderful walks, great views and marmottes galore.

*Meyronnes, Barcelonnette, Le Lauzet-Ubaye, St Vincent, South on D900, Seyne, Le Vernet\* (a perfect drive [49 miles])*

**20<sup>th</sup> June. Tuesday. 1 night. Le Vernet [Alpes de Hautes Provence, 04]. Lou- Passevous campsite\*.** Dutch. Neat. Nice walks. Woken by redstarts singing. Must refrain from going over their wooden bridge.

*Col du Latouret, Digne les Bains, towards Nice (D85), Chateauredon, Riez, St Laurent du Verdon [59 miles]*

**21<sup>st</sup> June. Wednesday 4 nights. La Farigoulette at St Laurent.** By the lake under forest of pines. New management of one of our favourite sites. Good restaurant, pool, shops etc. Hoopoes. Great white egret, redstarts nightingales.

*Quinson, Tavernes, Rians, Peyrolles, Rognes, Lambesc [63 miles]*

**25<sup>th</sup> June. Sunday. 1 night. Lambesc [Bouche du Rhone, 13]. Camping de Provence\*.** Nice site under trees. Pool and restaurant (closed). Kites in shape of buzzards as bird scarers. Nice dutch neighbours. Only suitable as stopover. Flat and few walks etc.

*St Cannat, past Salon en Provence, St Martin de Crau, Arles, D570 to Le Clos du Rhone (near Stes Maries de la Mer [68 miles])*

**26<sup>th</sup> June. Monday. 4 nights. Le Clos du Rhone. 2km from Stes Maries de la Mer.** One of our favourite sites. New owners. Restaurant and pool and shop all good. Safe bike ride to Stes Maries de la Mer and its great restaurants. Celebrated my birthday there with Laura and Phil Hewitt.

*Mas Senebier, Montcalm, Mas des Iscles (reserve de Scamandre excellent bird sanctuary), Etaing de Charnier, Sommieres (Masserau campsite)*

**30<sup>th</sup> June. Friday. 2 nights. Sommieres [Gard, 30]. ' Le Massereau\*.** Big expensive site with excellent pools, restaurant etc. Large pitches. Cycle road (Voie Verte) for long rides into countryside or into lovely small town of Sommieres with its excellent restaurants. Visiting Phil and Laura Hewitt.

*Ledignan, Ales, Portes, Genolhac, Villefort, Pailleres (SW of Villefort) [57 miles]*

**2<sup>nd</sup> July. Sunday. 1 night. Pailleres\* [Lozere, 48].** In the mountains by river. Very friendly (Veronique). Good small restaurant. Pool. Very good walks.

*La Garde Guerin, La Bastide Puylaurent, Chasserades, Chateauneuf de Randon, Baraque de la Mottes, Col de Trois Soeurs, Col du Croix de Bor [51 miles].*

**3<sup>rd</sup> July Monday. 2 nights. Our wild site on the Col du Croix de Bor.** At about 5000 feet in the Margerides. Wonderful views and walks. Butterflies and flowers. Mistle thrush, linnet, meadow pipits, stonechat, Montague's harrier.

*St Denis en Margerides, St Alban sur Limagnole, A75 to St Flour, Murat, Riom es Montagnes, Trizac [90 miles]*

**5<sup>th</sup> July. Wednesday. 2 nights. Trizac, municipal site Le Piolat.** Our special Auvergne site with excellent restaurants (but closed these particular days). Swimming in lake and excellent walks and bike rides. Red kites fly low overhead.

*Nr Riom, Antignac, Bort les Orgues, Ussel, La Courtine, Felletin, Aubussan, Chambon sur Voueize, Evaux les Bains [107 miles]*

**7<sup>th</sup> July Friday. 1 night. Evaux les Bains.** Neat site. No shop, pool or restaurant. These are nearby but walk to pool is lengthy. Excellent restaurant in town.

*Chambon, Boussac, La Chatre, past Argenton, St Gaultier, Ciron, Rosnay [89 miles]*

**8<sup>th</sup> July. Saturday 1 night. Rosnay municipal site.** By lake in the watery Brenne region. Some of our favourite walks were closed but good bike rides. Excellent restaurant now open with new owners.

*Mezieres en Brenne, Chatillon sur Indre, Loche, Blere, Amboise, Chateau Renault, Montoire sur Loire, Savigny sur Braye\* [117 miles]*

**9<sup>th</sup> July. Sunday. Savigny sur Braye [Loir et cher, 41]. Le Pre aux moines \*.** New Owners. Excellent pool. Very near village with Shops and restaurants. Closed so had a pizza from a pizza machine-very very good.

*St Calais, Vibraye, La Ferte Bernard, Belleme, Mortagne au Perche, Moulins la Marche, Gace, Vimoutiers, Livarot, St Pierres s Dives, Troarn, Carbourg, Merville-Franceville Plage\*[143 miles]*

**10<sup>th</sup> July. Monday. 1 night. Le Mer in Merville-Franceville Plage\*.** Next to the site we used last year {2016}. Excellent friendly informal site. Pitches scattered over wide area. Direct access to beach. No pool or restaurant. But excellent restaurant about 20 minute walk up huge beach. Likely to be preferred option in future.

**11<sup>th</sup> July. Oustraham and ferry, Portsmouth, home.**

## France 2016 Itinerary

**Tuesday 7th June – Tuesday 12th July.** Liz + Chris + Hugh in new Campervan (Lifestyle). Ferry Portsmouth to Caen (Ouistraham). Just Chris and Liz. Picked up Hugh at Perpignan airport on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June and delivered him back Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July. So Chris and Liz had 10 days before Hugh, 14 days with him and 10 days after. Total: 2,050 miles; 3,300 km

Ouistraham, Mayenne, Bauge, **Les Rosiers sur Loire\***; Saumur, Chinon, Descartes, Preuilley-s-Claise, **Rosnay in Brenne**; Le Blanc, Bellac, Rochechouart, St Yrie-la-Perche, **Le Bugue**; Villefranche du Perigord, Cahors, **St Antonin Noble Val\***; Gaillac, Lavour, Revel, **Les Cammazes\***; Saissac, Carcassone, Nr Beziers, Valras Plage, **Serignan-Plages\***; Beziers, Narbonne, Durban-Corbieres, **Tuchan**; (Perpignan airport) **Tuchan**; Estagel, Quillan, **Puivert\***; Tarascon-s-Ariege, Col de Puy Morens, Mont-Louis, **Matamale**; **Font-Romeu\***; Prades, Thuir, Elne, **Argeles Plages**; Le Bacares, by Rivesaltes, Estagel, **Tuchan**; Perpignan airport, Estael, Durban, **St-Pons-de-Thomieres\***; Baderieux, Lodeve, St-Maurice-Navacelles, [wrongly taken Diversion around cirque de Navacelles] **Le Vigan**; Mont Aigual, Florac, Mende, Chateaufort-de-Randon, **Col de la Croix de Bor**; Grandrieu, Landos, **Fay-sur-Lignon\***; Tence, Yssingeaux, Craponne-sur-Arzon, Ambert, Noirtable, **Chatel-Montagne\***; Lapalisse, Dompierre, Beaulon, Decize, Premery, **Pouilly-sur-Loire\***; Sancerre, Aubigny, Lamotte-Beuvron, Meung-s-Loire, Patay, **Bonneval**; Brou, Belleme, Montagne-au-Perche, Gace, Livarot, St Pierre –s-Dives, Troarn, Ranville, **Merville-Franceville-Plage**; Ouistraham, Portsmouth, Home.

**\*New campsite.**

*Ouistraham, Mayenne, La Fleche, Bauge, Les Rosiers sur Loire [178 miles]*

**8<sup>th</sup> June Wednesday. Les Rosiers sur Loire\*. 2 nights.** Alternative to our usual Saumur stop on the Loire. Small site. Nice 800m bike ride to village, La Loire and to excellent Logis de France Val de Loire restaurant. Good shops etc. Campsite has nice small warm pool. Nice pitches.

*Saumur, Chinon, Descartes, Preuilley-s-Claise, Rosnay in Brenne [102 miles]*

**10<sup>th</sup> June Friday. Rosnay in Brenne. 1 night.** Nice municipal site with minimum facilities by lovely lake and near other lakes – great for herons etc. Local restaurant closed out of season but good small village shop.

*Le Blanc (lovely place), Bellac, Rochechouart, Chalus, St Yrie-la-Perche, Le Bugue [178 miles]*

**11<sup>th</sup> June 2 nights. Le Bugue.** Les Trois Copains site. Well run, pool, good restaurant, near town. We visited our old friends Max and Marguerite Avezoux.

*Belves, Villefranche du Perigord, Cahors, Caussade, St Antonin Noble Val\* [92 miles]*

**13<sup>th</sup> June, Monday. 1 night. St Antonin Noble Val\*.** Nice site under trees beside river. Small pool. Good bike rides and walks. Short walk to lovely mediaeval town with shops and restaurants. Snack bar (in season).

*Cordes-s-Ciel, Gaillac, Lavour, Puy Laurens, Revel, Les Cammazes\* [88 miles]*

**14<sup>th</sup> June, Tuesday. 1 night. Les Cammazes\*** La Rigole campsite. Nice friendly site on side of a wooded hill near lake. Small pool (too cold out of season). Excellent snack bar. Small shop. Good walking and cycling.

*Saissac (lovely mediaeval town), Carcassone, Trebes, Capestang, Nr Beziers, Valras Plage, Serignan-Plages\* [89 miles]*

**15<sup>th</sup> June. Wednesday. 2 nights. Serignan-Plages\*** Large site with direct access to dunes and beach. Excellent pool, restaurant and shop. Good area for cycling. The whole area is campsites. Expensive. An alternative (there are very many) is Bleu Marine – on beach and adjacent to inland lagoon. Good for birds. Little tern, Hoopoe, black winged stilt, nightingales and Kentish Plover.

*Beziers, Narbonne, Durban-Corbieres, Tuchan [67 miles]*

**17<sup>th</sup> June. Friday. 3 nights. Tuchan.** Our usual rural Corbieres site, Short distance from village with good shops. Excellent pool and restaurant. [Collected Hugh from Perpignan airport – 50 miles] then returned here.

*Tuchan; Estagel, Quillan, Puivert\* [52 miles]*

**20<sup>th</sup> June, Monday. 1 night. Puivert.** Stopover site. Terraced site, nice pitches near lake (swimming ok). Few facilities. Town 'loisir'. Snack bar in season. Near small town.

We had Hugh with us for only next 2 weeks so wanted some time in the mountains and some by coast  
*Lavelanet, Tarascon-s-Ariege, Ax-les-Thermes, Col de Puy Morens, Mont-Louis, Matamale [103 miles]*

**21<sup>st</sup> June, Tuesday, 4 nights. Matamale (Camping du Lac).** One of our favourite sites. Rural amongst pine trees. Small snack bar rarely open out of season. No shop. Snack bar is open by lake. Excellent for walks and bike rides. Nearby swimming pool. Wonderful restaurant down in village where there is a good shop.

*Mont Louis, Font-Romeu [13 miles]*

**25<sup>th</sup> June, Saturday 2 nights. Font-Romeu. Huttopia site.** Nice campsite on edge of town. Many chalets. Small pool. Snack bar in season. Steep walk to town for shops and restaurants. Views of Pyrenees. Nice hilly walks nearby.

*Mont Louis, Villefranches de Conflent (walled city), Prades, Thuir, Elne, Taxo d'Avall, Argeles Plages [65 miles]*

**27<sup>th</sup> Monday 4 nights. Argeles-Plages.** Le Soleil. One of our favourite sites next to beach. Excellent pools, restaurants, snack bar. Near coastal nature reserve. Hoopoes, Bea eaters, Fan-tailed warbler (=Zitting cisticola).

*Le Bacares, by Rivesaltes, Estagel, Tuchan [48 miles].*

**1<sup>st</sup> July, Friday. 1 night. Tuchan.** Returned here as it was better for taking Hugh to Perpignan airport (successful decision).

*Estagel, Peyrestortes, airport (dropped Hugh), Estagel, Tuchan, Durban-Corbieres, Ferrals-les-Corbieres, Lezignan-Corbieres, past Minerve, St-Pons-de-Thomieres\* [109 miles]*

**2<sup>nd</sup> July, Saturday, 1 night. St-Pons-de-Thomieres\*.** An excellent site under cherry trees by a river (with beach for swimming). Small pool. Rural amongst wooded hills. Next to a Voie Vert – a disused rail line suitable for walking and cycling. Short cycle ride into interesting town.

*Olargues, Baderieux, Lodeve, St-Maurice-Navacelles, [wrongly taken Diversion around cirque de Navacelles] Montdardier, Avezes, Le Vigan [82 miles] The Cirque de Navacelles is dangerous and forbidden to vans – we were lucky to meet few vehicles on the narrow, steep, winding road.*

**3<sup>rd</sup> July, Sunday, 3 nights. Le Vigan, Val de l'Arre.** One of our favourite sites by river. Good small warm pool, shop and excellent snack bar. Met up again with .....

*Mont Aigual, Florac, Mende, Chateuneuf-de-Randon, Baraques-de-la-Mottes, Col de la Croix de Bor [103 miles taking 4.5 hours]*

**6<sup>th</sup> July, Wednesday, 1 night. Col de la Croix de Bor.** Our favourite wild site in les Margerides.

*Grandrieu, Landos, Barges, Le Monastier, Fay-sur-Lignon\* [65 miles].*

**7<sup>th</sup> July, Thursday 1 night. Fay-sur-Lignan. Ferme St. Mathieu.** Excellent municipal site with minimal facilities but near lovely village with excellent restaurants and shops. In a wonderful area.

*Tence, Yssingeax, Craponne-sur-Arzon, Ambert, Noirtable, Chatel-Montagne\* [150 miles]*

**8<sup>th</sup> July, Friday 1 night. Chatel-Montagne RetroPassion site.** Excellent rural site filled with retro cars bikes etc. Near village with shops and restaurants. Small pool. Outstanding good restaurant on site

*Lapalisse, Dompierre, Beaulon, Decize, St. Saulge, Premery, Pouilly-sur-Loire\* [117 miles]*

**9<sup>th</sup> July, Saturday. 1 night. Pouilly-sur-Loire.** Good open site on banks of Loire. Good country walks. Small goodish snack bar.

*Sancerre, Aubigny, Lamotte-Beuvron, Meung-s-Loire, Patay, Bonneval [133 miles]*

**10<sup>th</sup> July. Sunday. 1 night. Bonneval, Bois de Chievre.** Very nice rural site in woods by river. Good small restaurant (Pizzas). New owners, Falconry enthusiast. Falconry display was great. Adjacent to (free) town pool. Nice small town. Very friendly place.

*Brou, Belleme, Montagne-au-Perche, Gace, Livarot, St Pierre –s-Dives, Troarn, Ranville, Merville-Franceville-Plage [133 miles].*

**11<sup>th</sup> July. Monday 1 night. Merville-Franceville-Plage. Pont du Jour.** Convenient large site with direct access to beach. Good local restaurant 15 minutes along beach. Small pitches. The only site that was nearly full. There are other cheaper sites adjacent to this one. This catered for children with small covered pool.  
*12<sup>th</sup> July to Oustraham and Ferry. [10 miles].*

## France 2015 Itinerary

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July.** Liz + Chris + Hugh in new Campervan (Lifestyle).

Ferry Portsmouth to Caen (Oustraham). Hugh flew back on 20<sup>th</sup> June from Avignon [Flybe].  
Total: 1,847 miles; 2,972km.

Oustraham, Mayenne, Bauge, **Lac Rille**; Langeais, Motorway past Tours, Vierzon, Clermont-Ferrand, **La Chaise Dieu**; Le Puy en Velay, Aubenas, Die, **Luc en Diois**; Gap, Barcelonnette, **Larche**; Barcelonnette, Riez, **St Laurent**; Riez, Manosque, **Avignon**; **Airport to say goodbye to Hugh**; Tarascon, Nimes, Ganges, **Le Vigan**; Ganges, Anduze, Ales, Langogne, **Lac de Naussac**; Langogne, Grandrieu, **Col de la Croix-de-Bor**; St. Flour, Murat, Volcan cols, Salers, **Argentat**; Tulle, Aubusson, Bussac, **Poinsouze**; La Chatre, Loches, Chateau Renault, **Lac des Varennes**; St. Calais, Vibraye, Belleme, **Merville-Franceville-plage**; **Oustraham, Portsmouth, Southampton.**

**\*New campsite.**

*Oustraham. Thury-Harcourt, Flers, Domfront, Mayenne, Montsurs, Sable, La fleche, Bauge, Noyant, Breil, Lac Rille [173 miles].*

**4<sup>th</sup> June, Thursday. Lac Rille. 4 nights.** Excellent site in woodland by a large lake which is a bird sanctuary. Easy very close access for launching kayaks. Good cycling. Small pool [cold out of season]; simple (v. good) camp restaurant. Poor shop and no nearby village. Bread delivered. Spotted flycatchers, Black redstart, Reed warblers, Common tern. Little train ran around site on Sunday. Run by Mathieu & Rada (wife). Met Laurie (dog judge) and Caroline (mother of viola in Tippett string quartet).

*Langeais, Langeais, Motorway past Tours, Vierzon, Bourges, Montlucon, Clermont-Ferrand, Issoire, Brioude, La Chaise-Dieu [297 miles]. (Note: always avoid Vichy)*

**8<sup>th</sup> June, Monday. La Chaise-Dieu\*. 1 night.** Good basic site. Near interesting small town. We did not explore as this was overnight stop.

*La Chaise-Dieu, St-Paulien, Le Puy en Velay, Solognac sur Loire, Pradelles, Thueyts, Aubenas, Privas, Crest, Die, Luc en Diois [161 miles]. A wonderful drive; this route avoids Valence.*

**9<sup>th</sup> June, Tuesday, Luc en Diois\*. 1 night.** 'Les Foulons'. Good site. In the small town so good adjacent small supermarket. Excellent restaurant (Relais; the Magret de Canard was the best I have ever had). Redstarts on campsite, Swifts in village.

*Luc-en-Diois, Veynes, Gap, Espinasse, Barrage de Serre-Poncon, Barcelonnette, Meyronnes, Larche. [108 miles].*

**10<sup>th</sup> July. Wednesday. Les Marmottes at Larche. 3 nights.** One of our top sites. Run by Mr Durand. About 1800m. Excellent restaurant on site but not open as low season. Very good restaurant in village. No pool. Good shop. Very many high mountain walks. Crag martins in village. Many lesser whitethroat warblers, Garden warblers and many Winchats. There is now a small coach service (not in



low season so we were disappointed) up the road to the high plateau for wonderful mountain walks [to Italy]. We had the heaviest rain we have ever experienced through a whole night.

*Barcelonnette, Seynes, Digne les Bains, Les Mees, Bras d'Asse, Riez, St. Laurent du Verdon [108 miles]. Great drive.*

**15<sup>th</sup> June, Monday. 4 nights. St. Laurent en Verdon.** By lake near Verdon gorge. Huge friendly site under pines. Great kayaking in lake and gorge. Nice pool, shop and restaurant. Excellent restaurant in village. 4 Hoopoes hopping about the site. Magpie nest overhead, Crested tits. Dutch friends Mike and Kim.

*Riez, Greoux les Bains, Manosque, Apt, D100 then N7, around ring road to Avignon, Barthelasse [95 miles]*

**19<sup>th</sup> June Friday. 1 night. Pont d'Avignon.** Good large site. Free boat over to old town (but have to walk back). Old interesting town is packed with restaurants. We went to our favourite small Italian restaurant. Good small pool, camp shop, bikes for hire. Our neighbour, Peter Harris was retired GP and expert photographer. Hugh flew home next morning from Avignon airport. Easy access with parking for van. Enjoyable airport. It was extremely windy so a disturbed night. Weather forecast was very windy in Camargue region so we changed plans, omitting this region.

*Around larger ring road to N7 for airport (at Caumont), Noves, Graveson, around Tarascon, ring road around and through Nimes (not nice), Quissac, Sauve, St Hippolyte-du-Fort, Ganges, Le Vigan [107 miles].*

**20<sup>th</sup> June. Sunday. Val d'Arre in Le Vigan. 4 nights.** Good very friendly site, small pool, shop, snack restaurant. Owners (Dutch and French were always very helpful). Interesting town but 3 km bike ride. Met previous friends: John and Mafanwy, involved in Leeds International Piano Competition. They helped by driving us to town to get my front punctured tyre replaced.

*Ganges, St Hippolyte-du Fort, Anduze, Ales, Portes, Genolhac, Villefort, Langogne, Lac Naussac [107 miles] Great drive.*

**24<sup>th</sup> June. Wednesday. Les Terraces du Lac, on lac Naussac. 3 nights.** Excellent site on terraces overlooking lake and beautiful countryside. Swimming in lake and boats available from nearby Loisir centre. Small children's pool. Administered by a hotel on site. Excellent restaurant. No shop but the bar will provide coffee milk bread etc (not wine). Great walks and bike rides around lake. Very friendly. Neighbours were Andre and Naomi from Holland; we celebrated my birthday with them a day early in the restaurant.

*Langogne, Pradelles, Langos, Grandrieu, Col de la Croix-de-Bor [44 miles].*

**27<sup>th</sup> June. Saturday Col de la Croix-de-Bor (camping sauvage). 2 nights .** Wonderful silent site with 180 degree views. Good (exhausting) bike rides and easy walks. Garden warblers, meadow pipits and magnificent Montagu Harriers. Met friendly Frenchman, (?Massif?).

*St-Denis-en-Margeride, St-Alban-sure-Limagnole, morotway to St Flour, Murat, Puy Mary and other volcan cols, Salers, Pleaux, St-Privat, Argentat, Chambon campsite on Beaulieu road [123 miles] Wonderful drive through Auvergne, route des Volcans.*

**29<sup>th</sup> June. Monday/ Chambon L'Europe campsite near Argentat. 3 nights.** One of our favourite kayaking sites, on banks of the Dordogne, but we cannot do the rapids without Clive. Had a morning thunderstorm. Temperature 32-38 degrees. We sat in camp chairs in the Dordogne. Had excellent dinner in restaurant of campsite next door. Roger and Gabriel as energetic and noisy as always; it was good to see them again.

*Argentat, Tulle, Egletons, Meymac, Millevaches, Felletin, Aubusson, Gouzon, Bussac, Poinsouze [122 miles]*

**2<sup>nd</sup> July. Monday. Poinsouze Castel campsite.** Expensive Castel campsite by lake. Very friendly, with excellent swimming pool. Kayaking ok in lake. Excellent restaurant and takeaway when it is

closed. Met good new friends from Southport, Rob and Lisa, who had a gigantic caravan; wonderful company.

*Ste-Severes-sur-Indre, La Chatre, Argenton-sur-Creuse, motorway around Chateauroux to D943, Buzancais, Chatillon-sur-Indre, Loches, Blere, Amboise, Chateau Renault, Montoire-sur-Le Loir, La chartre-sur-le Loir, Marcon to Lac des Varennes [182].*

**4<sup>th</sup> July. Saturday. 1 night. Lac des Varennes\***. Large site on the lake. Very full. Many children. Swimming in lake (bit dirty). OK for one night stop.

*Back to La chartres-s-Le Loir, Ponce, St. Calais, Vibraye, La Ferte Barnard, Le Theil, Belleme, Mortagne-au-Perche, Vimoutiers, Livarot, Argences, Troarn, Herouvillette-Escoville, Ranville, Merville-Franceville-plage (near Ouistraham) [159 miles].*

**5<sup>th</sup> July, Sunday. Pont du Jour at Merville-Franceville plage. 1 day.** Very bust campsite with direct access to beach. Excellent small restaurants on sea front 15 minutes walk along beach.

**6<sup>th</sup> July Merville-Franceville, Ouistraham** (pausing at Carrefours) just before reaching Ferry [10 miles]. **Portsmouth, Southampton.**

## France 2014 Itinerary

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May – Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June.** Liz + Chris + Hugh in our Campervan Kon-tiki.

Ferry Portsmouth to Caen (Ouistraham). Hugh flew back on 14<sup>th</sup> June from Perpignan [Flybe]. Total: 1,730 miles; 2,768km.

Ouistraham, Mayenne, Bauge, **Lac Rille**; Langeais, Motorway past Poitiers, Limoges, Angouleme, Perigeux, **Le Bugue**; Caduin, Agen, Cologne, **St Cricq, Lac de Thoux**; L'Isle-Jourdain; Motorway around Toulouse, Foix, Ax-les-Thermes, Bourg-Madame, Mont-Louis, **Matamale**; Mont-Louis, Prades, Thuir, **Argeles-s-Mer**; Perpignan airport, Estagel, **Tuchan**; Durban-Corbieres, Ripaud, **Gleon**; Portel-des-Corbieres, to Motorway past Narbonne, Beziers, Lodeve, **Le Vigan**; Ganges, Anduze, Langogne, **Lac Naussac**; Solignac, Rion, Montlucon, Ciron, **Rosnay**; Bournan, **Saumur**; Bauge, Sable-s-Sarthe, **Sille-la-Guillaume**; St-Pierre-sur-Dives, Troarn, Ranville, **Merville-Franceville Plage**; Ouistraham; Portsmouth.

**\*New campsite. \*\*France Passion**

*Ouistraham. Thury-Harcourt, Flers, Domfront, Mayenne, Montsurs, Sable, La fleche, Bauge, Noyant, Breil, Lac Rille [181 miles].*

**29<sup>th</sup> May, Thursday. Lac Rille. 3 nights.** Excellent site in woodland by a large lake which is a bird sanctuary. Easy very close access for launching kayaks. Small pool [cold out of season]; simple camp restaurant. Poor shop and no nearby village. Bread delivered. Spotted flycatchers, Black redstart, Reed warblers. Little train ran around site on Sunday.

*Langeais, Montbazou, Motorway past Poitiers, then Lussac les Chateaux, Bellac, Limoges, Angouleme, Dignac, Brantome, Perigueux, (A89, D710), Le Bugue [264 miles].*

**1<sup>st</sup> June. Le Bugue. 2 nights.** Camping Les Trois Caupain. Good site. Good pools. Excellent restaurant. Nice small town very close by.

*Caduin, Beaumont-dePerigord, Villeneuve-s-Lot, Agen, Astaffort, Lectoure, Fleurance, Mauvezin, Cologne, St Cricq, Lac de Thoux [128 miles].*

**3<sup>rd</sup> June. Lac Thoux near St. Cricq. 4 nights.** Very nice site under pine trees by lake; very good for kayaking. Lots of woodpigeons and collared doves. Should pay for kayak permit. Can hire sails.

*L'Isle-Jourdain; Motorway around Toulouse (past Foix), Les Cabannes, Ax –les-Thermes, Col de Puymorens (tunnel closed but it better and easy over the top), Bourg-Madame, Saillagouse, Mont-Louis, Matamale [175 miles]. Note: this is better than the route through Quillan, Asat and the Gorge de Saint George.*

**7<sup>th</sup> June. Matamale. 3 nights.** Camping du Lac. At 1500m. Great village restaurant. Wonderful grassy site with sweet smelling conifers, nesting redstarts and Winchats, and good views. Near lake. Nearby swimming pool. Great walks and bike rides.

*Mont-Louis, Prades, Rodez, Corbere, Thuirs, Elne, Taxo d'Aval, Argeles-s-Mer [73 miles].*

**10<sup>th</sup> June. Argeles sur Mer. 4 nights.** Le Soleil. Wonderful pools and large site. Good bars, shop and excellent Restaurant. Next to beach. Bee-eaters, hoopoes and nightingales. Good bike rides. Good local restaurants.

*Elne, around Perpignan, Airport, Estagel, Paziols, Tuchan [57 miles].*

**4<sup>th</sup> June. Tuchan. 3 nights.** Excellent site near village responsible for Fitou wine. Nice pool and excellent small bar and restaurant. Very friendly.

*Durban-Corbieres, Ripaud, Gleon. [18 miles].*

**17<sup>th</sup> June. Gleon\*\*. 1 night.** Chateau Gleon-Montanie. France-Passion site in Corbieres, near Villesques des Corbieres. Excellent. Bought 3 cases of super wine. Nice walks. Friendly. Monsieur Monastier showed me round. He was a French Navy pilot based in Scotland.

*Portel-des-Corbieres, to Motorway past Narbonne, Beziers, North to Badarieux, East to Clermont-Herault, Lodeve, St. Maurice-Navacelles, Le Vigan [139 miles].*

**18<sup>th</sup> June. Le Vigan, Le Val de l'Arre. 3 nights.** Good very friendly site on banks of the river Arre, small pool, shop, snack restaurant. Gave us great help with van which had developed problems.

*Ganges, St. Hippolyte, Anduze, Ales, Portes, Genolhac, Villefort, Langogne, Lac Naussac [109 miles]; one of the nicest roads in France.*

**21<sup>st</sup> June. Lac Naussac. 2 nights. Lac de Naussac, Langogne.** Excellent site on terraces overlooking lake and beautiful countryside. Swimming in lake and boats available from nearby Loisir centre. Small childrens pool. Administered by a hotel on site. Excellent restaurant. No shop but the bar will provide coffee milk bread etc (not wine). Great walks and bike rides around lake. Very friendly.

*Langogne, Pradelles, Solignac (past Puy en Velay), Lavaudieu, Brioude, Motorway past Issoire, Clermont Ferrand, Riom, Montmarault and Montlucon, La Chapelaude, Colan, LA Chatre, St. Gaultier, Ciron, Rosnay [258 miles].*

**23<sup>rd</sup> June. Rosnay in La Brenne. 3 nights.** Wonderful municipal site on edge of lake by very small village. Whole area has many lakes, some of which are bird sanctuaries. Grey and Purple herons, Night heron.

*Mezieres-en-Brenne, Azay-le-Ferron, Le Peti-Pressigny, Ligeuil, Bournan, Ste-Maure-de-Touraine, L'île-Bouchard, past Chinon, Candes-st-Martin, Saumur [91 miles].*

**26<sup>th</sup> June. Saumur. 2 nights.** Good large site on island in Loire. 20 min to town. It now has its own small pool. The large adjacent municipal pool has been closed down. Nice walk to town with good restaurants.

*Longues-Joumelles, Bauge, La fleche, Sable-s-Sarthe, Brulon, Sille-La-Guillaume, Sille-Plage. [74 miles].*

**28<sup>th</sup> June. Sille-la-Guillaume\*. 1 night.** Indigo site in dark forest by lake. Friendly site. Tiny pool.

*Villaines-la-Juhal, Pre-en-Pail, Carrouges, St-Pierre-sur-Dives, Troarn, Herouvillette Escoville, Ranville, Merville-Franceville-Plage [121 miles].*

**29<sup>th</sup> June. Merville-Franceville Plage\*. 1 night.** Just past the town going East towards Cabourg. The first of 3 adjacent excellent sites on the huge sandy beach. Has covered swimming pool. 600 yards along beach leads to village with excellent restaurants.

**30<sup>th</sup> June. Ouistraham, Portsmouth, Home [22 miles].**

## France 2013 Itinerary

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August 18th** Liz + Chris + Hugh in our Campervan Kon-tiki.

Ferry Portsmouth to Caen (Ouistraham). Hugh flew back on 27<sup>th</sup> July from Avignon [Flybe].

Total: 1,880 miles; 3,008km.

### **\*New campsite. \*\*Wild. \*\*\*France Passion**

Ouistraham, Mayenne, Bauge, *Lac Rille*; Langeais, Motorway past Tours, Vierzon, *St.-Paulien, Rochelambert*; Le Puy en Velay, Valence, Die, *Hirondelle at Menglon*; Gap, Barcelonette, *Larche*; Towards Gap, Sisteron, Nr. D.-des Anges, *Moulin de Vendre at Niozelles*; Apt, *Avignon*; Past Arles to *clos du Rhone at Les Sainted Maries de la Mer*; Nimes, Ganges, Le Vigan, *St. Julien de la Nef*; Le Vigan, Meyrueis, *Causse Mejean*; St. Enemie, Mende, *Lac Naussac*; Grandrieu, *Croix de la Col de Bor*; St. Flour, Riom es Montagne, *Trizac*; Bort-les Orgues, La Courtine, past Aubusson, Generailles, Chatelus Malveix, *Boursolles near Roche*; Bonnat, Ciron, *Rosnay*; Ligueil, Crouzilles, *Domaine Coton at Le Perriere*; Langeais, Ferte Bernard, *Belleme*; Montagne au Perche, Livarot, Ouistraham, Portsmouth.

**Note:** a) Excellent Campervan park at Nieuil on D28 off N147 opposite the chateau. Before Argentat. b): Campsite on river beach and swimming and interesting town at L'île-Bouchard on R. Vienne between Rosnay and Saumur.

*Ouistraham. Thury-Harcourt, Flers, Domfront, Mayenne, Montsurs, Sable, La fleche, Bauge, Noyant, Breil, Lac Rille [181 miles].* Because the Tour de France was going past the campsite we had a gentle detour by way of the village of Asnieres.

**11<sup>th</sup> July. Lac Rille. 4 nights.** Excellent site in woodland by a large lake which is a bird sanctuary. Easy very close access for launching kayaks. Small pool, simple camp restaurant. Poor shop and no nearby village. Bread delivered. Spotted flycatchers, Black redstart, Reed warbler. Little train ran around site on Sunday.

*Langeais, Langeais, Motorway past Tours, Vierzon, Bourges, Montlucon, Gannat, to Vichy Thiers, Ambert, Chaise-Dieu (good mountain site here), St. Paulien. St.-Paulien, Rochelambert. [322 miles]. Advise go on towards Clermont Ferrand on the Motorway and avoid crowded complex extensive Vichy at all costs.*

**15<sup>th</sup> July. La Rochelambert near St. Paulien\*. 2 nights.** This was alternative to nearby excellent Vorey that was full (see 2010). Good site with restaurant, small shop, small pool. In low hill countryside with nice walks.

*Past Le Puy-en-Velay, St. Agreve, Valence, Portes-les-Valence, Crest, Die, Recobean-Jansac, Menglon. [133 miles]*

**17<sup>th</sup> July. Hirondelles campsite near Menglon\*. 1 night.** Good campsite for children but not otherwise. Huge paddling pools. Very very long campsite under pine trees by river [almost inaccessible]. Nice countryside. (Alternative to Lus de la Croix Haute)

*Luc-en-Dios, Col de Cabre, [diversion through narrow mountain road to La Faurie], Veynes, Gap, Barrage de Serre-Poncon, Barcelonette, Meyronnes, Larche. [125 miles].*

**18<sup>th</sup> July. Les Marmottes at Larche. 4 nights.** One of our top sites. About 1800m. Excellent restaurant on site and also in village. No pool. Good shop. Very many high mountain walks. Crag martins in village. Many lesser whitethroat warblers and many Winchats. There is now a small coach service up the road to the high plateau for wonderful mountain walks [to Italy].

(We had intended going to our usual Farigoulette lakeside site near St Laurent near Verdon Gorges but this was full)  
*Barcelonette, towards Gap then South, Tallard, Sisteron, La Brillane, Niozelles near D. des Anges [104 miles]*

**22<sup>nd</sup> July. Moulins de Ventres near small chapel - D. des Anges\*. 4 nights.** Excellent site with excellent restaurant, large proper pool. Nice bike rides and walks. Free WiFi.

*Niozelles, Forcalquier, Cereste, Apt, Avignon (take outer ring road signposted Arles, Nimes)[70 miles]*

**26<sup>th</sup> July. Pont d'Avignon campsite. 1 night.** Good large site, snack bar, shop, small family pool. Easy walk or ferry into Avignon, packed with restaurants etc. Hugh flew home from here by Avignon airport. The airport has many names so can be confusing. It is on the main road near Caumont East of Avignon [Flybe].

*Noves, Graveson, Arles, Saintes Maries de la Mer [76 miles].*

**27<sup>th</sup> July. Le Clos du Rhone near Les Saintes Maries de la Mer. 3 nights.** Wonderful pools and large site. Good bars, shop and excellent Restaurant. Next to beach for good swimming.

*St. Gilles, Nimes (horrible), Sauve, St Hippolyte, Ganges, St. Julien de la Nef. (83 miles).*

We went to this campsite because our usual nice one at Le Vigan was full.

**30<sup>th</sup> July. Isis de St. Julien. 1 night\*.** Very nice large shaded site by the river which has many small beaches for swimming. Small children's pool. Nice restaurant and bar. Free wifi.

*Le vigan, Mont Aiguol Met Observatory(great views, worth the slight detour), Col de Peyguret, Cabriac, Meyreuis. La Parades, Mas de Val [63 miles].*

**31<sup>st</sup> July. Causses Mejean 3 nights\*\*.** Wild camping. Best wild camping in France (their description is 'Camping Sauvage' which is perfect for this place. Overseen by vultures. Good bike rides and walks.

*St-Chely-du-Tarn, Ste-Enimie, Sauveterre, Le Bec, Mende, Badaroux, Laubert, Chateuneuf-de-Randon, Naussac (just before Langogne) [60 miles].*

**2<sup>nd</sup> August. Les Terraces du lac, on lac Naussac.\* 3 nights.** Excellent site on terraces overlooking lake and beautiful countryside. Swimming in lake and boats available from nearby Loisir centre. Small childrens pool. Administered by a hotel on site. Excellent restaurant. No shop but the bar will provide coffee milk bread etc (not wine). Great walks and bike rides around lake. Very friendly. (We met Andrew and Di here. Andrew solved my horrible gear change problem by lubricating the linkage system. He then serviced the fridge so we could wild camp later.)

*Langogne,Pradelles, Le Sauvetat, Grandrieu,Col de la Croix de Bor [47 miles]*

**5<sup>th</sup>August. Col de la Croix de Bor. 2 nights\*\*.** Great wild camping site at 4,500 ft in Margeride hills. Good walking country. Always have huge thunderstorms with hail here.

*St. Alban dur Limagnol, Motorway north to St. Flour, Murat, Riom es Montagne, Trizac [92 miles].  
One of best drives on our journey.*

**7<sup>th</sup> July. Trizac municipal site. 3 nights.** No pool but could swim in the etaing on site. No shop etc. Wonderful village surrounded by good walking on plateau or cycling. Good restaurants.

*Riom es Montagnes, Bort les Orgues, by Ussel, La Courtine, Felletin, by Aubusson, Generailles, turn right to Chatelus Malveix, Boursolles near Bagnat and Roche [112 miles].*

**10<sup>th</sup> August. Ferme de Boursolles. 1 night\*\*\*.** France Passion site. Very peaceful. Hoopoes and golden orioles. Good for cycling and great walks.

*Chatelus, Bonnat,Aigurande. Le Fay, St. Gaultier, Ciron, Rosnay in La Brenne [68 miles].*

**11<sup>th</sup> August. Rosnay municipal. 2 nights.** Wonderful municipal site on edge of lake by very small village. Whole area has many lakes, some of which are bird sanctuaries. Grey and Purple herons, Night heron. Excellent cycling. Site has no pool or shop etc. Very near village has shops and excellent simple restaurant.

*Le Temple, Previlly sur Claise, Le Grand Pressigny, Ligueil, Bournan, Crouzilles (East of Chinon on Loire) [58 miles].*

**13<sup>th</sup> August. Domaine Coton in Le Perriere\*\*\*. 1 night.** Great France Passion site. In beautiful farming country. Bought some good wine from their caves (set in limestone cliffs on edge of farm). Excellent for walking and cycling.

*St. Gilles near L'Isle Bouchard (where there is a good campsite with beaches) Azay-le-Rideau, Langeais, Cinq-Mars, Champchevrier, Chateau du Loir, Le Grand Luce, Connere, Ferte Bernard (campsite locked closed for 3 hour lunch break so we ignored them), Le Theil, Belleme. [127 miles].*

**14<sup>th</sup> August. Belleme municipal. 1 night.** Good simple site. Nearby town pool is really best for children. Steep short walk into nice old town. Good restaurant and one excellent expensive one.

*Mortagne au Perche, Moulin la Marche, Vimoutiers, Livarot, St Pierre-Dives, Troarn, Herouville/Escoville, Ranville, Ouistraham [88 miles].*

## France 2012 Itinerary

**Thursday 14th June – Wednesday 18th July.** Liz + Chris + Hugh in our Campervan Kon-tiki.

Ferry Portsmouth to Caen (Ouistraham). Hugh flew back on 3rd July from Perpignan [Flybe].  
Total: 1,899 miles; 3,056km.

### \*New campsite. \*\*Wild. \*\*\*France Passion

Ouistraham, Mayenne, Bauge, *Lac Rille*; Langeais, Motorway past Poitiers, Limoges, Motorway past Uzerches, Tulle, *Argentat*; Beaulieu, Souillac, St-Cyprien, *Le Bugue*; Caduin, Agen, Cologne, *St Cricq, Lac de Thoux*; L'Isle-Jourdain; Motorway around Toulouse, Foix, Axat, Formigueres, *Matamale*; Mont-Louis, Prades, Thuir, *Argeles-s-Mer*; St, Cyprien, past Rivesaltes, Estagel, *Tuchan*; Durban-Corbieres, Ripaud, *Gleion*; Portel-des-Corbieres, to Motorway past Narbonne, Beziers, Frontagnan, *Les Tamaris*; Gigean, St-Martin-des-Londres, Ganges, *Le Vigan, Le Valle de l'Arre*; L'Esperou, Mont Aigoual observatory, Meyrueis, *Causse mejean*; Ste-Enimie, Mende, Chateaufort-de-Randon, *Col de Croix de Bor*; St-Alban-sur-Limagnols, Chaudes-Aigues, Pont de Lanau, *La Belvedere (Neuveglise)*; St-Flour, Murat, Riom-es-Montagnes, *Trizac*; Riom-es-Montagnes, Bort-les Orgues, La Courtine, Gentioux-Pigarolles, *Vauveix, Val de Vassiviere*; Peyrat, Gueret, Argenton-sur-Creuse, Ciron, *Port de la Brenne, Rosnay (in La /Brenne Region)*; Mezieres-en-Brenne, Bournan, L'Isle-Bouchard, *Saumur*; Bauge, Sable-s-Sarthe, Evron, Carrouges, *Falaise*; St-Pierre-sur-Dives, Troarn, Ranville, Ouistraham, Portsmouth.

**Note:** a) Excellent Campervan park at Nieuil on D28 off N147 opposite the chateau. Before Argentat. b): Campsite on river beach and swimming and interesting town at L'Isle-Bouchard on R. Vienne between Rosnay and Saumur.

*Ouistraham. Thury-Harcourt, Flers, Domfront, Mayenne, Montsurs, Sable, La fleche, Bauge, Noyant, Breil, Lac Rille [181 miles].*

**15<sup>th</sup> June, Friday. Lac Rille\*. 3 nights.** Excellent site in woodland by a large lake which is a bird sanctuary. Easy very close access for launching kayaks. Small pool [cold out of season]; simple camp restaurant. Poor shop and no nearby village. Bread delivered. Spotted flycatchers, Black redstart. Little train ran around site on Sunday.

*Langeais, Montbazou, Motorway past Poitiers, then Lussac les Chateaux, Bellac, Limoges, Motorway past Uzerches, then Seilhac, Tulle, Argentat [148 miles].*

**18<sup>th</sup> June. Argentat. 3 nights.** Le Chambon. One of our best sites on banks of Dordogne next to the best rapids. [Too full for us this year]. Small pool was closed [too early in season]. Very very friendly site. Excellent walks and bike rides. Lovely small town with excellent restaurants.

*Beaulieu, Vayrac, Souillac, (S. of Sarlat), St-Cyprien, La Bouisson de Caduin, Le Bugue [90 miles].*

**21<sup>st</sup> June. Le Bugue. 1 night.** Camping Les Trois Caupain. Good site. Good pools. Excellent restaurant. Nice small town very close by.

*Caduin, Beaumont-dePerigord, Villeneuve-s-Lot, Agen, Astaffort, Lectoure, Fleurance, Mauvezin, Cologne, St Cricq, Lac de Thoux [127 miles].*

**22<sup>nd</sup> June. Lac Thoux near St. Cricq. 2 nights.** Very nice site under pine trees by lake; very good for kayaking. Lots of woodpigeons and collared doves.

*L'Isle-Jourdain; Motorway around Toulouse (as far as Foix), St-Rome, Nailloux, Pamiers, Foix, Quillan, Axat, Gorges de St-Georges, Puyvalador, Formigueres, Matamale [164 miles].*

**24<sup>th</sup> June. Matamale. 2 nights.** Camping du Lac. At 1500m. Great village restaurant. Wonderful grassy site with sweet smelling conifers, nesting redstarts and good views. Near lake. Nearby swimming pool. Great walks and bike rides.

*Mont-Louis, Prades, Rodez, Corbere, Thuirs, Elne, Taxo d'Aval, Argeles-s-Mer [125 miles; + 50 miles to Perpignan airport and back].*

**26<sup>th</sup> June. Argeles sur Mer. 5 nights.** Le Soleil. Wonderful pools and large site. Good bars, shop and excellent Restaurant. Next to beach. Bee-eaters, hoopoes and nightingales. Good bike rides. Good local restaurants.

*St, Cyprien, Canet-Plage, St-Laurent-de-la-Salanque, past Rivesaltes, Estagel, Paziols, Tuchan [50 miles].*

**1<sup>st</sup> July. Tuchan. 3 nights.** Excellent site near village responsible for Fitou wine. Nice pool and excellent small bar and restaurant. Very friendly. Saw first wryneck in my life. Watched European cup final in bar.

*Durban-Corbieres, Ripaud, Gleon. [18 miles].*

**4<sup>th</sup> July. Gleon. 1 night.** Chateau Gleon-Montanie. France-Passion site in Corbieres, near Villesques des Corbieres. Excellent. Bought 3 cases of super wine. Nice walks. Friendly. Monsieur Monastier showed me round. He was a French Navy pilot based in Scotland.

*Portel-des-Corbieres, to Motorway past Narbonne, Beziers, to Sete, Frontagnan, Les Tamaris [74 miles].*

**5<sup>th</sup> July. Les Tamaris 2 nights\*\*\*.** Large expensive site. Good pool. Excellent walks and bike rides. On beach which has breakwaters making sea swimming good. Good for birds. Big bar with karaoke sessions etc .Local restaurants.

*Frontagnan, Gigean, Villeveyrac, Gignac, Anlane, St-Martin-des-Londres, Ganges, Le Vigan [73 miles].*

**7<sup>th</sup> July. Le Vigan, Le Val de l'Arre. 2 nights.** Good very friendly site on banks of the river Arre, small pool, shop, snack restaurant.

*L'Esperou, Mont Aigoual observatory, Cabriac, Meyrueis, La Parade, Mas-de-Val, Causse mejean [58 miles].*

**9<sup>th</sup> July. Causse Mejean. 2 nights.** Wild camping. Best wild camping in France (their description is 'Camping Sauvage' which is perfect for this place. Overseen by vultures. Good bike rides and walks.

*St-Chely-du-Tarn, Ste-Enimie, Sauveterre, Le Bec, Mende, Badaroux, Laubert, Chateuneuf-de-Randon, Baraqu-de-la-Motte, Col de Croix de Bor [60 miles].*

**11<sup>th</sup> July. Col de la Coix de Bor. 1 night.** Wild camp. In Margeride hills, Excellent site. Up long track away from road. Great views, walks and bike rides. A good restaurant is about a mile to west. Stonechat, Mistle thrushes, skylarks, Montagu's harrier.

*St-Alban-sur-Limagnols, oast St-Chely-d'Apcher, Fournels, Chaude-Aigues, Pont de Lanau, La Belvedere (Neuveglise) [45 miles].*

**12<sup>th</sup> July. Neuveglise\*\*\*. 1 night.** Good friendly terraced site. Nice small pool. Lovely views.

*St-Flour, Murat, Riom-es-Montagnes, Trizac [58 miles].*

**13<sup>th</sup> July. Trizac. 1 night.** Nice municipal site on edge of wonderful village. Surrounded by good walking on plateau or cycling. Good restaurants.

*Riom-es-Montagnes, Antignac, Bort-les Orgues, Thalamy, Aix, Courteix, St-Remy, La Courtine, La-Mas-d'Artigues, Feniers, Gentioux-Pigarolles, Vauveix, Val de Vassiviere [86 miles].*

**14<sup>th</sup> July. Lac de Vassiviere. 1 night.** Best of many sites on edge of huge lake. Nearby restaurant. Sailing etc. Swimming in lake. Good walks and bike rides. Terraced and access for kayaks ok but a bit distant.

*Peyrat, Bourganeuf, Pontarion, Gueret, Bretouillis, Bonnat, Aigurande, Le Fey, Argenton-sur-Creuse, St-Gaultier, Ciron, Port de la Brenne, Rosnay [119 miles].*

**15<sup>th</sup> July. Rosnay in La Brenne. 1 night.** Wonderful municipal site on edge of lake by very small village. Whole area has many lakes, some of which are bird sanctuaries. Grey and Purple herons, Night heron.

*Mezieres-en-Brenne, Azay-le-Ferron, Le Peti-Pressigny, Ligeuil, Bournan, Ste-Maure-de-Touraine, L'Ile-Bouchard, past Chinon, Candes-st-Martin, Saumur [90 miles].*

**16<sup>th</sup> July. Saumur. 1 night.** Good large site on island in Loire. 20 min to town. Disappointing; it now has its own small pool. The large adjacent municipal pool has been closed down. Nice walk to town with good restaurants.

*Longues-Jumelles, Bauge, La fleche, Sable-s-Sarthe, Evron, Villaines-la-Jouhel, Pre-en-Pail, Carrouges, Putanges-Pont-Ecrepin, Falaise [147 miles].*

**17<sup>th</sup> July. Falaise. 1 night.** Municipal site at base of the castle and an easy stroll to the mediaeval town with many restaurants.

*St-Pierre-sur-Dives, Troarn, Herouvillette Escoville, Ranville, Ouistraham [20 miles]. Portsmouth*  
**18<sup>th</sup> July. Ouistraham, Portsmouth, Home [22 miles].**

## France 2011 Itinerary

**Thursday 16th June – Monday 18th July.** Liz + Chris + Hugh in our Campervan Kon-tiki.

Ferry Portsmouth to Caen (Ouistraham). Hugh flew back on 3rd July from Avignon [Flybe].  
Total: 1,953 miles; 3,125km.

### \*New campsite. \*\*Wild. \*\*\*France Passion

Ouistraham by motorway [mainly] Falaise, Boussac, *Poinsouze*; past Vichy, Chaise-Dieu, to *Vorey*; Yssingeaux, past Valence, Crest, Die to *Lus la Croix Haute*; [past Barcelonnette to *Larche*; past Digne les Bains to *St. Laurent du Verdon*; to *Avignon*; past Arles to *Saintes Maries de la Mer*; to *Le Vigan*; past Nant to *Randals Bison* [Causse Noir]; past Meyrueis to *Causse Mejean*; to *Ste. Enimie*; past



Mende and Chateaufort de Randon to *Col de la Croix de Bor*; past Chaudes aigues, **St Flour, Riom es Montagnes** to *Trizac*; by Ussel, La Courtine, Auzances to *Evaux les Bains*; past Montalgot, by Montmarault and Sancerre to *St. Satur/St Thibault*; by Aubigny s Nere, Beaugency to *La Ferte Bernard*; By Vimoutiers, Troarn to Ouistraham, Portsmouth, Southampton.

*Ouistraham. By motorway [mainly] Falaise, Alencon, Le Mans, Vierzon, past Bourges, St Amand Montrond, Boussac, Poinsouze [340 miles].*

**17<sup>th</sup> June. Fri. Boussac/Poinsouze.** 3 nights. ]. Le chateau de Poinsouze . A les Castels site. Excellent. By its own lake (kayaking etc) near chateau. Good pool. Excellent restaurant.

*Montalgout, past Past Gannat, Vichy, past Thiers, Ambert, Chaise-Dieu, Vorey[173 miles].*

**20<sup>th</sup> June. Mon. Vorey\* 2 nights.** Excellent site in good walking country with nice pool. Local restaurants.

*Yssingaux, Tence, St Agreve, past Valence, Crest, Die, Chatillon-en-Diois, Grimone, Lus la Croix Haute [155 miles]. NB: The interesting route by the col de Grimone includes nasty tunnel where we were damaged by a giant German van. Avoid if nervous.*

**22<sup>nd</sup> June. Wed. 2 nights. Lus la Croix Haute.** Excellent friendly site with good restaurant. Near nice village with more restaurants. Many good walks. On the road to Grenoble. Wonderful area.

*Veynes, Gap, Barcelonette, Larche [92 miles].*

**24<sup>th</sup> June. Fri. 4 nights. Larche.** One of our top sites. About 1800m. Excellent restaurant on site and also in village. Very many high mountain walks. Crag martins in village.

*Barcelonette, Seynes, Digne les Bains [deviation], Les Mees, Bras d'Asse, Riez, St. Laurent du Verdon [138 miles]. Had puncture [sorted by RAC] in Digne.*

**28<sup>th</sup> June. 4 nights. St. Laurent en Verdon.** By lake near Verdon gorge. Huge friendly site under pines. Great kayaking in lake and gorge. Nice pool, shop and restaurant. Excellent restaurant in village. RAC [pronounced Rack] arranged for 2 new rear tyres.

*Greoux les Bains, pont de Manosque, pont de Pertuis, around Cavaillon, D7, around ring road to Avignon [103 miles]*

**2<sup>nd</sup> July. Sat. 1 night. Avignon.** Was Municipal site. New owners. Good. They said it may be full but it was only 25%. Hugh flew home next morning from Avignon airport. Easy access with parking for van. Enjoyable airport.

*Noves, Graveson, Arles, Saintes Maries de la Mer [76 miles].*

**3<sup>rd</sup> July. Sunday. Saintes Maries de la Mar.** 3 nights. Le clos du Rhone. Wonderful pools and large site. Good bars, shop and excellent Restaurant. Next to beach for good swimming.

*Aigues-Mortes, Nr. Lunel, Sommieres, Quissac, Ganges, Le Vigan [75 miles].*

**6<sup>th</sup> July. Wed. Le Vigan\*.** 2 nights. Good very friendly site, small pool, shop, snack restaurant.

*Aveze, Alzon, Nant, Revens, Randals Bison [nr Languedoc on Causses Noir] [41miles]*

**8<sup>th</sup> July. Friday. Randals Bison\*\*\*.** 1 night. France Passion site on top of wild Causses Noir. Good restaurant for eating their bison.

*Meyrueis, Causse Mejean\*\*, La Parade [25 miles].*

**9<sup>th</sup> July. Saturday. Causse Mejean\*\*.** 2 nights. Wild camping. Vultures, deer, choughs.

*Down the hill to St. Enimie [13 miles, nearly 1 hour].*

**11<sup>th</sup> July. Mon. St. Enimie\*.** 1 night. Nice little town on Tarn packed with restaurants [20 minutes from site]. Good small pool and shop. Good swimming in Tarn. Slightly difficult access for kayaks.

*Sauveterre, Balsieges, Mendes, Laubert, Chateaufort de Randon [nice hill village with good shops] Col de la Croix de Bor [50 miles].*

**12<sup>th</sup> July. Col de la Croix de Bor\*\*.** 1 night. Excellent wild site in the Margerides. We had huge thunderstorm/hail in the night. Local villages damaged by hailstorms the size of billiard balls.

*St. Alban, Termes, Fournels, Chaudes aigues, St Flour, Murat, Riom en Montagnes, Trizac [102 miles]. Beautiful drive through Margerides and Auvergne but bit spoilt by the wettest drive in my life.*

**13<sup>th</sup> July. Trizac.** 2 nights. Wonderful village surrounded by good walking on plateau or cycling. Good restaurants.

*Riom es Montagnes, Bort les Orgues, by Ussel, La Courtine, Felletin, by Aubusson, Auzances, Evaux les Bains [111 miles].*

**15<sup>th</sup> July. Sat. Evaux les Bains\*.** 1 night. Site Ok. Village very nice.

*Montalgot, Montmarault, Cosne, Ygrande, Sancoins, La Guerche, Cours, Herry, St. Bouize, by Sancerre, St. Satur/St Thibault [128 miles]*

**16<sup>th</sup> July. Sat. St. Satur/St Thibault.** 1 night. Our usual 'Sancerre' site on banks of Loire.

*Henrichemont [deviation], Aubigny s Nere, Clemont, La Marolle, Beaugency, Binas, St. Calais, La Ferte Bernard [168 miles].*

**17<sup>th</sup> July, Sunday. La Ferte Bernard.** 1 night. Ok site. Very nice small town with excellent restaurants.

*Belleme, Mortagne au Perche [deviation]; Vimoutiers, St Pierre, Troarn, Ouistraham [118 miles; 4 hours].*

**18<sup>th</sup> July. Ferry home from Ouistraham.**

## **Our 2010 Itinery**

Copied direct from Website \*New campsite. \*\*Wild. \*\*\*France Passion

Ouistraham, past Saumur to Airvault; to Le Bugue; past Dax to Azur; to Sauveterres de Bearn; to Lescun; past Lourdes and St Gaudens to Oust; past Quillan to Matamale; past Prades to, Argeles-Plage; Perpignan Airport; past Tuchan to Gleon; past Beziers on A9 to Stes-Maries-de-la-Mer; past Quissac to Lanuejols (Causse noir); past Meyrueis, to Causse Mejean; past St. Enemie and Chateaneud-de-Randon to Col de la Croix de Bor; past Chely-d'Apcher and Riom-es-Montagne to Trizac; past Aubusson to Boussac; past Issoudun to Belleme; to Ouistraham, Portsmouth.

CAEN. *Ouistraham, Ouistraham, Thury-Harcourt, Flers, Mayenne, Monsurs, Sable, La Fleche, Saumur, Thouars, Airvault [220miles].*

**29<sup>th</sup> May Sat. Airvault\*** [1 night]. Camping de Courte Vallee. Good site. Few facilities open; small pool was closed. English. 20 minute walk to nice small mediaeval town with good restaurants.

*Parthenay, St-Maixent, Lezay, Ruffec, La Rochefoucauld, Marthen, Nontron, Perigeux, Le Bugue [200 miles]*

**30<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> May. Sunday. Le Bugue** [2 nights]. Camping Les Trois Caupain. Good site. Excellent restaurant\*\*\*.

*Bergerac, Marmande, St. Justin, Mont de Marsan, Dax, Magescq, Azur. [184 miles].*

**1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> June. Tuesday. Azur** [4 nights]. Camping Azur'Rivage\*. Excellent large site beside large lake (Etang de Soustons). Good kayaking. Small shop. Good cycling area. Nothing in nearby villages [restaurants etc].

*Souston, St. Vincent, Peyrehorade, Labatout, Bellocq, Sauveterres de Bearn. [54 miles]*

**Saturday 5th June. Sauveterre de Bearn** [1 night]. Good municipal site by the Gave d'Oloron. Mediaeval town. In season some restaurants. River excellent for swimming and kayaking (some flat, some almost white).

*Navarrenx, Oloron-Ste-Marie, Lescun. [49 miles].*

**6th – 7th June. Sunday. Lescun** [2 nights]. Camp du Lauzart. One of our favourite campsites in France. Spectacular views of mountains with great walks and cycle rides. Near nice small village.

*Lurbe-St-Christau, Arudy, Lourdes, Bagnères-de-Bigorre, St. Laurent-de-Neste, St Gaudens, Figarol, St-Girons, Lacourt, Oust. [156 miles].*

**8th June. Tuesday. Oust** [1 night]. Camping les 4 Saisons\*. 400m from nice village. By river. Excellent restaurant.

*Masat, Tarascon, Lavelanet, Quillan, Axat, Matamale [110 miles].*

**9th – 11th June. Wednesday. Matemale** [3 nights]. Camping du Lac. At 1500m. Great village restaurant. Wonderful grassy site with sweet smelling conifers, nesting redstarts and good views. Near lake. Nearby swimming pool. Great walks and bike rides.

*Mont Louis, Olette, Prades, Thuir, Elne, Taxo d'Avall, Argeles-Plage. [70 miles].*

**12th – 15th June. Saturday Argeles-s-Mer** [4 nights]. Le Soleil. Wonderful pools and large site. Good bars, shop and excellent Restaurant. Next to beach. Nesting Hoopoes and nightingales. Good bike rides.

*Perpignan Airport; Estagel, Tuchan, Durban-Corbieres, Gleon [66 miles]*

**16th June. Wednesday Chateau Gleon\*\*\*** [1 night]. France-Passion site in Corbieres, near Villesques des Corbieres. Excellent. Bought 3 cases of super wine. Nice walks. Friendly.

*Portel-des-Corbieres, Les Mattes, A9;Beziers, Montpellier, Gallargues,Aigues-Mortes, Stes-Maries-de-la-Mer [130 miles]*

**17th June. Thursday. Ste-Maries de la Mer. (Camargue)** [3 nights]. Le clos du Rhone. Wonderful pools and large site. Good bars, shop and excellent Restaurant. Next to beach.

*Aigues-Mortes, Sommieres, Quissac, Sauve, Ganges, Le Vigan, Sauclieres, Nant, Revens, Lanuejols (Causse noir). [190 miles].*

**Sunday 20th June. Randals Bison\*\*\* on Causse Noir** [1 night]. France Passion. High, windy and cold. Good restaurant but closed at night. Sold bison stew. Great walks. Nearest town is Millau [to the West].

*Meyrueis, Carnac, Causse Mejean [26 miles].*

**21st June. Monday. Causse Mejean** [2 nights]\*\*. Wild camping. Best wild camping in France (their description is 'Camping Sauvage' which is perfect for this place. Overseen by vultures. Good bike rides and walks.

*Mas-St-Chely, St. Enemie, Sauveterre, Balsiege, Chateauneud-de-Randon, Col de la Croix de Bor [61 miles].*

**23rd June Wednesday. Col de Croix de Bor** [2 nights]\*\*. Wild camp. In Margeride hills, Excellent wild camp site in. Up long track away from road. Great views, walks and bike rides. A good restaurant is about a mile to west.

*St. Alban-sur-Limagnole, St-Chely-d'Apcher, St. flour, Murat, Riom-es-Montagne, Trizac. [92 miles].*

**25th June Friday. Trizac [1 night]. In Auvergnés.** Nice municipal site on edge of village. Small restaurants may not be open. Excellent easy walks over the high Auvergne plateau.

*Nr. Riom, Antignac, Bort-des-Orgues, Ussel, La Courtine, Felletin, Aubusson, Chenerailles, Gouzon, Boussac.[114 miles].*

**26th June. Saturday. Bousac-Bourg** [1 night]. Le chateau de Poinsouze \*. A les Castels site. Excellent. By its own lake (kayaking etc) near chateau. Good pool. Restaurant [take away].

*Ste-Severe-sur-Indre, Le Chatre, St. Chartier, Issoudun, Vatan, Valancay, Contre, Blois, Vendome, Savigny, St-Calai, Vibraye, Belleme. [199 miles].*

**27th June. Sunday. Belleme** [1 night]. Camping Municipal “le Val” . Neat campsite in the interesting small town. Good Cambodian restaurant. Excellent alternative to La Ferte Barnard.

**28th June. Monday** . Mortange-au-Perche, Moulins-la-Marche, Gace, Livarot, St-Piere-s-Dives, Troarne, Ranville, Ouistraham. [95 miles].

## France 2009 Itinerary

Portsmouth - Ouistram - Saumur on Loire- Argentat on Dordogne - Trizac in Auvergnnes - Finiel in Cevennes - St Laurent near Verdon gorge -Vence near Nice - [Hugh flies home] - Col de la Bonnette - Larche [Italian border in Alpes de Hautes-Provence]- Laye and Lus de la CroixHaute [in Hautes-alpes/Vercors/Drome area]- Chatillion - St Sauveur [Ardeches] - Chaises Dieu [Livradois-Forez] - Aufueilles near Vichy - St. Satur on Loire - Belleme in Parc du Perche - Ouistraham.

CAEN: Ouistraham, Flers, Thury-Harcourt, Dom, Mayenne, Sable, La Fleche, Saumur [185 miles]

**1. 22nd August. [Saumur](#)**. Good large site on island in Loire. 20 min to town. Disappointing; it now has its own small noisy pool and we have to pay to go to the large adjacent pool which is now rather run-down and it has lost its bar. But nice walk to town with good restaurants.

Loudun, Mirebeau, Poitiers, Bellac, Tulle, Argentat [222 miles]

**2. 23rd-27th August. [Argentat](#)**. On bank of Dordogne. Excellent rapids. Very friendly. Small pool. 30min walk to Argentat. Good restaurants. Great walks and bike rides.

St. Privat, Peaux, Mauriac, Trizac [49 miles]

**3. 28th August. [Trizac](#)** in Auvergnnes. Nice municipal site on edge of village. Small restaurants may not be open. Excellent easy walks over the high auvergne plateau.

Riom-es-Montagne, Murat, St. Flour, St Cheley d'Apcher, St. Amans, Rieutort de Ranson, [Plateau du Palais de Roi] - Laubert, Chadenet, Le Blymard, Col de Finiels, Finiels. *Wonderful drive* [131]

**4. 29th August. [Finiel](#)** nr. Pont de Montvert. In Cevennes. Simple site. No shop or restaurant. Great walks. Louis Stevenson walked here with his donkey.

Pont de Montvert, Genolhac, Ales, Uzes, Pont du Gard, Beaucaire, St. Remy de Provence, Cavaillon, Pertuis, Greoux le Bains, Allemagne, Montagnac, St. Laurent [180 miles]

**5. 30th August - 4th Sept. [St Laurent](#)**. By lake nr Verdon gorge. Huge site under pines. Nice pool, shop and restaurant [closed!]. Excellent restaurant in village.

Montmeyan, Salernes, Draguignan, Montferrat, Bargemont, Col du Belhomme, Seranon, St. Vallier de Thiey, Col de Ferrier, Plateau de Caussols, Gourdon, Magagnosc, Bar du Loup. [7 hours wonderful high drive; 118 miles].

**6. 5th Sept. [Bar du Loup\\*](#)**. Small steeply terraced site. Not suitable for us; v. difficult to negotiate.

Tourettes sur Loup, Vence [49 miles]

**7. 6th Sept. [Vence\\*](#)**. Large well-shaded site with good pool and restaurant. Drove Hugh to Nice airport from here. Motorway was full and very slow. 40 minutes. Bad journey back to camp site - more than 2 hours cos of traffic and lack of road signs.

Carros, Madone d'Utelle, St. Sauveur de Tinee, St. Etienne de Tinee, Col de la Bonette [2,800m], Jausiers, Meyronne, Larche [104 miles]

8. **7th - 11th Sept. [Larche](#)**. One of our top sites. About 1800m. Excellent restaurant on site and also in village. Very many high mountain walks. Crag martins in village.

Jausiers, Barcelonnette, Le Lauzet-Ubaye, Savine le Lac, Gap, Col Bayard, Laye [73 miles]

9. **12th Sept. [Lave\\*](#)**. A [France Passion](#) site. In car park of a fromagerie and its restaurant. Nice little village and good walks with views of distant mountains. Dinner was very cheesy.

Gap, Veyne [lovely small town], La Faurie, Lus la Croix Haute [41 miles]

10. **13th - 15th Sept. [Lus la Croix Haute](#)**. Excellent friendly site with good restaurant. Near nice village with more restaurants. Many good walks. On the road to Grenoble. Wonderful area.

Grimone, Chatillion en Diois [lovely village], Die, Saillans, Crest, Privas, St. Sauveur de Monagut [103miles]

11. **16th Sept. [St. Sauveur de Montagut\\*](#)**. North of Privas. 8km to camp along good road in gorge. Dutch site.

Le Cheylard, St. Agreve, Tence, Yssingaux, Retournac, Vorey, Chaise-Dieu, Baffur [102 miles]

12. **17th Sept. [Baffour nr La Chaise-Dieu\\*](#)**. A [France Passion](#) site. In a farmyard. Nice country walks.

Arlanc, Ambere, Thiers, St. Remy, Col de la Plantarde, Le Mayet, Chatel Montagne [camp closed], Arfeuilles [95 miles]

13. **18th Sept. [Arfeuilles\\*](#)**. Municipal site. Empty, out of season. No open restaurants. Nice site.

Lapalisse, Chaligny, Dompierre, Beaulon [nice village], Garnat, Decize, Fleury sur Loire, Chevenon, La Grenouille, Cuffy, Beffes, Sancerre, St.Thibault, St.Savur [124 miles]

14. **19th Sept. [St. Satur](#)**. Near Sancerre on La Loire. Empty. Near village with open restaurants.

Sancerre, Vailly, Aubigny, Lamotte-Beuvron, Chaumont, Beaugency, Cravant, Binas, Moree, Epuisay, Mondoubleaux, La Ferte-Barnard [camp closed], Belleme [180 miles]

15. **20th. Sept. [Belleme\\*](#)**. Interesting small town. Good Cambodian restaurant.

Mortagne-au-Parche, Moulins-la-Marche, Gace, Vimoutiers, St. Pierre-s-Dives, Troarn, Ouistraham [96 miles]

## Camping in France 2008

12<sup>th</sup> June – 11<sup>th</sup> July. Portsmouth night to Caen arriving next morning. With Chris, Liz, Hugh.  
HUGH FLIGHT Mon 30th June. Perpignan to Soton. Flybe 13.50 [check in by 12.50] arr 14.55.

Ouistraham, Richelieu, Argentat, St. Cricq, Matemale, Egat, Argeles - s - Mer, Touchan, Rieumontagne, Causses Mejean, Crox de Bor, Trizac, Le Bourg d'Hem, Le Ferte Bernard, Caen. Total distance, 1,701 miles.

**CAEN** *Ouistraham, Flers, Domfront, Mayenne, La Fleche, Saumur, Chinon, Richelieu [225 miles]*

**1. 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> June. Richelieu.** Simple municipal site 20 min. walk from nice small town and near huge park.

Very good restaurants.

**Camping Municipal.** 7, route de Chatellerault. 47-58-15-02

*Chatellerault, Chauvigny, Nr Limoge, free motorway to South of Tulle, Argentat. [4.5 hrs, 188 miles]*

**2. 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> June. Argentat.** On bank of Dordogne. Excellent rapids. Very friendly. Small pool. 30min walk to Argentat. Good restaurants. Great walks and bike rides.

**Camping Europe Le Chambon** 05 55 28 07 70. Le Chambon 19400 Monceaux sur Dordogne [camping-europe@wanadoo.fr](mailto:camping-europe@wanadoo.fr); [www.camping-europe.fr](http://www.camping-europe.fr)

*Beaulieu, Gramat, Motorway past Cahors to nr Montauban, to near Cologne [West of Toulouse] [4.5 hours; 144 miles].*

**3. 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> June. Lac de Thoux, St. Cricq.** Wonderful site by lake. Pool was cold. Kayaked illegally in lake [no problem; maybe more difficult in full campsite].

Camping Lac de Thoux Saint-Cricq. +33(0)5 62 65 71 29 [contact@camping-lacdehoux.com](mailto:contact@camping-lacdehoux.com)  
<http://www.camping-lacdehoux.com/uk/camping-caravaning-france.php>

*St. Lys, Muret, Le Fossat, Foix, Quillan, Axat, Matamale [6 hours; 157 miles].*

**4. 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Matamale.** In Pyrenees. At 1500m. Great village restaurant. Wonderful grassy site with sweet smelling conifers, nesting redstarts and good views. Near lake. Nearby swimming pool. Great walks and bike rides.

**Camping du Lac.** 04 68 30 9449 <http://www.camping-lac-matemale.com/index.html> near Les angles [www.lesangles.com](http://www.lesangles.com)  
*Mont Louis, Egat [16 miles]*

**5. 24<sup>th</sup> June. Egat.** Mountainside site. Terraced. A few good walks. No challenge to Matemale.

**Las Clottes**, 4 rue de la Nalga 66120 Egat. 04 68 30 26 90 <http://camping.mon-guide.info/camping,ville-egat>  
*Mont Louis, Prades, Thuir, Elne, Argeles-s-Mer [73 miles].*

**6. 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> June. Argeles Plages** Wonderful pools and large site. Good bars, shop and excellent Restaurant. Next to beach. Nesting Hoopoes and nightingales. Good bike rides.

**Le Soleil** rte du Littoral 66700 ARGELES SUR MER 04 68 81 14 48  
<http://www.eurocampings.net/nl/europa/frankrijk/languedoc-roussillon/pyrenees-orientales/camping-le-soleil-104068>  
*Perpignan airport, Estagel, Paziols, Touchan [52 miles].*

**7. 30<sup>th</sup> June. La Peiriere, Touchan.** Simple site very near village. Nice small pool. Simple good restaurant. Home of Fitou wine. Near MontAuch.

**Camping La Peirière.** 0033 468 454650 [lapeiriere@caramail.com](mailto:lapeiriere@caramail.com) [www.lapeiriere.com](http://www.lapeiriere.com)  
<http://www.caravancampingsites.co.uk/france/11/peiriere.htm>.

*Durban Courbieres, Olonzac, St. Pons de Thomieres, La Salvetat, Rieu-Montagne [94 miles].*

**8. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Indigo, Rieu-Montagne.** Lac du Laouzas, Haute Languedoc. Nicely separated plots with great views of lake. Small pool, restaurant and shop. Friendly staff.

**Camping Indigo RIEUMONTAGNE.** 81320 Nages. 33 56 33 72 471. <http://www.camping-indigo.com> [this is general site can't find this particular site].

*Nages, Lacaune, Belmont, St. Affrique, Millau, Le Rozier, Meyrueis, Armand. Drigas, Nivoliens [105 miles].*

**9. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> July. June Causse Mejean.** Best wild camping in France. Overseen by vultures. Good bike rides and walks. A long way to civilisation so need to take plenty of water and food.

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Causse\\_M%C3%A9jean](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Causse_M%C3%A9jean)

*Mas-de-Val, St. Enimie, Sauveterre, Batsiege, Mende, Badaroux, Pelouse, Laubed, Rietort de Rendon, Estables, la Villedieu, [69 miles].*

**10. 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> July. Col de Croix de Bor.** Excellent wild camp site in Margeride hills. Up long track away from road. Great views, walks and bike rides.

*St. Denis-en-Margerides, St. Alban-s-Limagnole, St. Chely-d-Apcher, St. Flour, Andelat, Allanche, Condat, Riom-es-Montagnes, Trizac [104 miles]. NB This was an exploration. The direct route would be via St. Flour, Murat & Riom.*

**11. Le Pioulat, Trizac in Cantal.** Small lake for swimming. Nice views. Excellent walks over the plateau and long bike rides. Nice small shops. Restaurants in village rarely open but good when they do open [we tend to go out of season]. The mayor got the restaurant to open and we had pigs cheek and other wonderful stuff.

**TRIZAC Le Pioulat** 04 71 78 64 20 [mairie.trizac@wanadoo.fr](mailto:mairie.trizac@wanadoo.fr) <http://www.frankrijkgek.nl/dep/15/Trizac%20-%20Camping%20Municipal%20le%20Pioulat.php>

*Mauriac, Neuvic [ NB v. good campsite by lake here 20 mile S of Ussel], Meymac, Millevaches, Aubusson, Jarnages, Chatelus Malvaleix, Bonnat, le Bourg d'Hem [136 miles].*

**12. 9<sup>th</sup> July. Le Bourg d'Hem.** D940. In Creuse region/Limousin. Great wooded site on side of lake. Good swimming. No restaurant. There is a 'Grand Meaulnes Chateau hidden in the forest.

**Camping Municipal de l'Age.** 23220 Le Bourg-d'Hem. 05 55 62 84 36. [info@les3lacs-creuse.com](mailto:info@les3lacs-creuse.com)  
<http://www.frankrijkgek.nl/dep/23/Le%20Bourg-d-Hem%20-%20Camping%20Municipal%20l%27Age.php>

*Bonnat, La Chatre, St. Aout, Issoudun, Vatan, Valencay, Selles, Blois, Vendome, La Ferte Bernard [193 miles]*

**13. 10<sup>th</sup> July. La Ferte Bernard.** Great site & restaurants. Town is interesting and near campsite.

**Camping le Valmer** 02 43 71 70 03 <http://www.la-ferte-bernard.fr/fr/Camping-le-Valmer-501.htm>  
[camping@la-ferte-bernard.com](mailto:camping@la-ferte-bernard.com)

*Belleme, Mortagne, Vimoutiers, Livarot, Troarn, Ouistraham. [140 miles].*

**CAEN.**

## Camping in France 2007

**25th June – 23rd July Portsmouth/Caen, overnight ferry. With Chris, Liz, Hugh. Hugh returned 13th July from Avignon by flybe. Total distance = 1945 miles.**

St. Satur, Meyrieu les Etaings, Valnontey (Italy), La Larche, La Farigoulette. St. Laurent, Avignon, Saintes Maries de la Mer, Le Pont de Montvert. Near Finiel, Trizac, La Ferte Bernard

**CAEN**

*Ouistraham, Bonneval, Patay, Meung s Loire, Laurotte-Beuvron, Aubigny, Sancerre, St. Thibault, St. Satur. [297miles]*

**1. 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> June. St. Satur.** A very nice riverside site near Sancerre with excellent restaurants in village and nice bike rides.

**CAMPING RENE FOLTZER**\*\*\* 0248 540467 [www.sancerre.net/saint-satur](http://www.sancerre.net/saint-satur)

*La Charite, Nevers, Decize, Digoin, Roanne, St. Etienne, Vienne, St. Jean de Bournay (by D522). [242 miles].*

**2. 29<sup>th</sup> June. Meyrieu les Etaings.** Dull stopover lakeside site. In Isere region.

**Base de loisirs du Moulin.** Camping \*\*\*0474 593034 [www.camping-meyrieu.com](http://www.camping-meyrieu.com)

*Bourgoin-Jallieu, Chambery, Albertville, St Gervais, M. Blanc tunnel, Courmeyer, St. Pierre, Cogné, Valnontey. [171].*

**3. 30<sup>th</sup> June – 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Valnontey.** Paradiso National Park Italy. High in the mountains with great views and walks. Very friendly site. Good restaurant nearby.

**Campeggio Lo Stambecco.** Village Valnontey 11012 Cogné, Vallée d'Aoste, Italie Tel. +39 0165

74152 [campingstambecco@tiscali.it](mailto:campingstambecco@tiscali.it)

*Aosta, Pont St Martin, round Torino, Cuneo, Col de Larche [Colla della Maddalena]. [218 miles].*

**4. 3rd – 6th July. Domaine les Marmottes La Larche.** At about 6000'. Our favourite mountain campsite. set amongst larches on the banks of fast river. Fieldfares, lesser whitethroated warblers. Excellent restaurant in site, run by the owners, and also in nearby village. Magnificent long walks.  
**Les Marmottes** 04 92 84 33 64 64 <http://www.camping-marmottes.fr> [georges.durand25@wanadoo.fr](mailto:georges.durand25@wanadoo.fr)

*Barcelonnette, St, Vincen, Col de Labouret, Digne, Riez, D11 to St. Laurent. [112miles].*

**5. 7th – 11th July.. La Farigoulette.** St. Laurent. Lake nr Verdon Gorge. Nr Lac de St. Croix. Good lake for swimming and gorge for kayaking. Large site amongst pines. Small pool, and camp restaurant good. Very friendly. At bas of long steep. Nice walks and rides around the lake.

**LA FARIGOULETTE** lac du St Laurent. 04 92 74 41 62 <http://www.campings-alpes-de-haute-provence.com/camping-alpes-de-haute-provence-ang/alpes-de-haute-provence/clients/farigoulette/fl.html> For map: [http://www.camping-la-farigoulette.com/contact\\_an.htm](http://www.camping-la-farigoulette.com/contact_an.htm) [info@camping-la-farigoulette.com](mailto:info@camping-la-farigoulette.com)

*Greoux, Vinou, Pertuis, Avignon. [95 miles].*

**6. 12th July. Le Port d'Avignon.** Avignon. Site ok for short stay. Crowded but near town.

**Camping Municipal du Pont d'Avignon** 33 (0) 490 806 350 [http://www.camping-avignon.com/home\\_fr.html](http://www.camping-avignon.com/home_fr.html) [info@camping-avignon.com](mailto:info@camping-avignon.com)

*Arles, Saintes Maries des Mers[169 miles],*

**7. 13th – 17th July. Clos du Rhone.** Saintes Maries de la Mer. Big dry site on edge of beach. Great walks and rides in the Camargue. Nice pool and small restaurant. 20 minute walk to Saintes Maries which is filled with tourists and every sort of restaurant.

**Clos du Rhone.** +33 (0)4 90 97 85 99 [leclos@saintemaries.com](mailto:leclos@saintemaries.com) <http://www.avignon-et-provence.com/camping-sainte-marie-mer/clos-du-rhone>

*D998, St. Gilles, Nimes, Ales, La Grand Combe, Le Pont de Montvert, Finiel (on D20). [110 miles].*

**8. 18th – 19th July. Camping La Barrette, Le Pont de Montvert.** Near Finiel on D20 Cevennes. Wonderful simple and wild. Excellent long walks. No restaurant or pool. Small.

04.66.45.81.82. or 04.66.45.82.16. [http://www.cevennes-montlozere.com/detail-prestataire.php?id\\_annu=535](http://www.cevennes-montlozere.com/detail-prestataire.php?id_annu=535)

*Col de la Tourettes, Laubert, Plad de Palaid du Roi, Samans, St. Chly, St. Flour, Murat, Riom, Trizac. [130 miles].*

**9. 20th -21st July. Trizac Le Pioulat,** in Cantal. Simple site in mountain village. Excellent walks and long bike rides. Restaurants in village rarely open but good when they do open [we tend to go out of season]. Small lake for swimming. good views. Wonderful sunsets.

**TRIZAC Le Pioulat** 04 71 78 64 20  
[mairie.trizac@wanadoo.fr](mailto:mairie.trizac@wanadoo.fr)<http://www.frankrijkgek.nl/dep/15/Trizac%20-%20Camping%20Municipal%20le%20Pioulat.php>

*By D978 to Mauriac then A89 [57 miles, 2 hours], Uzerches, Limoges, Argentan, Chateauroux, Vierzon, La Ferte St. Auban, Meung S. Loire, Ouzouer, St. Calais, Vibraye, Ferte St. Bernard. NB good plage site at Maurillac la Croisille. [373].*

**10. 22nd July. La Ferte Bernard.** Great site & restaurants. Town is interesting and near campsite.  
Camping le Valmer 02 43 71 70 03 <http://www.la-ferte-bernard.fr/fr/Camping-le-Valmer-501.htm>  
[camping@la-ferte-bernard.com](mailto:camping@la-ferte-bernard.com)

*Belleme, Mortagne, Vimoutiers, Livarot, Troarn, Ouistraham. [140 miles].CAEN.*



## Camping in Central, Western and Southern France 2006

**Wed 31 May - Mon 19th June. Night. Portsmouth to Caen; Caen to Portsmouth. Afternoon. Chris, Liz and Hugh. Hugh flight home Mon 19th June: Flybe from Perpignan. 13.50 arrive 14.55. Total 1822 miles.**

Saumur, Argentat, Touffailles, Carcassonne, Matemale, Argeles, St Pons de Thomieres, Causse Mejean, Chatel-Montagne, Senonches, Ouistraham.

*Ouistraham, Flers, Dom, Mayenne, Sable, La Fleche [183 miles]*

**1. 1st June. Saumur.** 1 night only as pool was closed. Excellent large site on island in Loire. 20 min to town. Super pool with nice bar and restaurant.

**Camping Ile d'Offard** 0241 403000 [iledoffard@cvtloisirs.fr](mailto:iledoffard@cvtloisirs.fr) [www.CVTLOISIRS.com](http://www.CVTLOISIRS.com)

*Richelieu [at 50 miles; good camping], Chateaurault, Chauvigny, Limoges, Tulle [220 miles]*

**2. 2-6th June. Argentat.** On bank of Dordogne. Excellent rapids. Very friendly. Small pool. 30min walk to Argentat. Good restaurants. Great walks and bike rides.

**Camping Europe Le Chambon** 05 55 28 07 70. Le Chambon 19400 Monceaux sur Dordogne  
[camping-europe@wanadoo.fr](mailto:camping-europe@wanadoo.fr); [www.camping-europe.fr](http://www.camping-europe.fr)

*Vayrac, Caneda, Sarlat, Le Bugue, Villefrance, Fumel, Montaigne de Quercy, side road [160 miles]*

**3. 7th June. Touffailles.** Frogs, and traffic after 7.0am. good bakery.

*Moissac, Toulouse, motorway, Carcassonne [122 miles]*

**4. 8th June. Carcassonne.** Campsite walking distance from town.

**Campeole Camping de la Cite** 0468 251177 <http://www.campeole.com/camping-campeole-LA-CITE-17-14.htm> [cite@campeole.com](mailto:cite@campeole.com)

*Limoux, Quillan, Axat, Gorge St Georges [wonderful road] [79 miles]*

**5. 9th - 13th June Matemale.** In Pyrenees. At 1500m.. Great village restaurant. Wonderful grassy site with sweet smelling conifers, nesting redstarts and good views. Near lake. Nearby swimming pool. Great walks and bike rides.

**Camping du Lac.** 04 68 30 9449 <http://www.camping-lac-matemale.com/index.html> near Les angles  
[www.lesangles.com](http://www.lesangles.com)

*Mont Louis, Bourg-Madame, SN152, , Spain, Prats de Molles, Arles, Ceret, Taxo D'Avall to D87 [141 miles]*

**6. 14 - 18th June. Argeles Plages** Wonderful pools and large site. Good bars, shop and excellent Restaurant. Next to beach. Nesting Hoopoes and nightingales. Good bike rides. Wonderful pool and site. Good bike rides. Restaurant. Next to beach. Nesting Hoopoes.

**Le Soleil** rte du Littoral 66700 ARGELES SUR MER 04 68 81 14 48

*Perpignan airport, Narbonne D607 - 907 [???*

**7. 19-20th June St Pons-Thoniere in Haute Languedoc.** Dutch site communal dinner is provided on some evenings. Long walk down to town. Karen & Martin. Wooded nice shady site but few facilities.

*Lacaune, Belmont, St Affrique, Millau, Le Rozier les Vignes, Gorges des Tarn, St Enemie, 9886, Mas de Va. Long steep climb out of Gorge [102 miles]*

**8. 21st June Causse Mejean.** Best wild camping in France. Amongst the pines and wild flowers. Overseen by vultures. Good bike rides and walks. A long way to civilisation so need to take plenty of water and food.

*St enemie, Ispagnac, Col de Montmirat, Barrege, [A75 ]. St. Chely, [St Flour], Massiac, [Clermand-Ferrand], [A719], Gannat, Vichy A71 [241 miles]*

**9. 2 nights Chatel Montagne.** Friendly site. Few facilities. Nice walk to village with excellent restaurant. Pool closed in low season.

**Camping La Coix Congnat** 03250 Chatel-Montagne 0033 - (0)4 70 59 31 38

<http://campinglacroixcognat.monsite.wanadoo.fr> [campinglacroixcognat@wanadoo.fr](mailto:campinglacroixcognat@wanadoo.fr)

*La Palise, St Pourcain, Montmarault, motorway, Vierzon, Romarantin, Blois, Vendome, St Calais, Vibraye, Ferte Bernard [293 miles]*

**10. Senonches.** Ouistraham, Caen [104 miles]