

FRANCE ITINERARIES 2006 – 2022

(1. Summaries; 2. Complete itineraries)

1. Summary of all itineraries

2022 Ouistraham, Laval, Montjean sur Loire; Parthenay, Chef-Boutonne, Chalais, St. Aulaye, Sauveterre de Guyenne, St. Symphorien; Sore, Biarritz*, Navarrenz, Oloron-Ste.-Marie, Foix, Lescure, Mas d'Azil, Foix, Ax-les-Thermes, Col de Puymorens, Matemale, past Prades, Estagel, Tuchan, Foix, St. Girons, Mane*; Orthez Bidart/Illbarritz* Dax, *Souprosse**, Marmande, St. Aulaye, Chalais, Segonzac, *Chez Richon*, Poitiers, Gennes-val-de-Loire*, Sable-sur-Sarthe, Le Horps, *Lassay-les-Chateaux**, La Ferte-Mace, Falaise, Merville-Franceville Plage, Ouistraham, Portsmouth, HOME.

2019 Cloyes sur Le Loir*; Maux*; Le Doucier*; Voucherons; Massignieu de Rives*; Lus la Croix Hautes; Visan*; Le Vigan; St. Pons de Thomieres; Argeles Plages; Tuchan; St. Girons*; Grenade sur L'Adour*; St. Symphorien; Chez Richon*; Saumur; Ricordeau, L'Aventura*, Merville-Franceville Plage, Ouistraham, Home.

2018 Ouistraham, Montjean sur Loire*; Puy d'Anche*; St Aulaye*; St Symphorien*; Aramits*; Col de Pierre St Martin, Louvie-Juzon *; Heches*; Le Mas d'Azil*; Maury*; Argeles Plages; Tuchan; Vieussan*; Le Vigan; Col de Croix de Bor; Gervais d'Auvergne*; Pouilly sur Loire; Bonneval; Franceville; Ouistraham.

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*, Oustraham, 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 CroixHaute - 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 2022 Itinerary

8th June – 7th July. Liz and Chris to Biarritz. Meet up with Hugh. Deliver him back to Biarritz airport, then home. * **New campsites**

SUMMARY

Oustraham, Laval, **Montjean sur Loire**; Parthenay, **Chef-Boutonne***, Chalais, **St. Aulaye**, Sauveterre de Guyenne, **St. Symphorien**; Sore, **Biarritz***, Navarrenz, Oloron-Ste.-Marie, Foix, Lescure, **Mas d'Azil**, Foix, Ax-les-Thermes, Col de Puymorens, **Matemale**, past Prades, Estagel, **Tuchan**, Foix, St. Girons, **Mane***; Orthez **Bidart/Illbarritz*** Dax, **Souprosse***, Marmande, **St. Aulaye**, Chalais, Segonzac, **Chez Richon**, Poitiers, **Gennes-val-de-Loire***; Sable-sur-Sarthe, Le Horps, **Lassay-les-Chateaux***, La Ferte-Mace, Falaise, **Merville-Franceville Plage**, Oustraham, Portsmouth, HOME.

OUR JOURNEY AND CAMPSITES

Oustraham, Thury-Harcourt, Flers, Domfront, Mayenne, Laval, Chateau Gontier, St.-Augustin-du-Bois, Mmontjean sur Loire. 161 miles.

8th / 9th June. Montjean sur Loire. West of Angers.

La Promenade (Flower camping). On banks of Loire. Very good restaurant by the bridge in village (10 minutes walk). Nice walks by river. Small pool.

Chalonnnes sur Loir, Vihiers (=Lys-Haut-Layon), Argenton, Bressure, Parthenay, Maixent l'Ecole, Melle, Chef-Boutonne. 131 miles

10th June. Chef-Boutonne (South East of Niort).

Camping le Moulin (and Restaurant des Canards). Camping le Moulin, Treneuillet, 1 Route de 79110, Chef Boutonne. English run site with good restaurant on site. Large shady pitches. Peaceful Good restaurant. Friendly.

Aigre, Rouillac, Chateaufort-sur-Charente, Blanzac, Montmoreau, Chalais, La Roche chalais, Villefranche de Lonchat, (near St. Antoine de Breuilh, St. Aulaye. 100 miles.

11th / 12th June. St. Aulaye. Between Libourne and Bergerac. Next to Dordogne

Camping La Riviere Fleurie. Good restaurant and pool, nice walks and bike rides. La Rivière Fleurie, 180, rue Théophile Cart 24230 Saint Antoine de Breuilh.

Pellegrue, Sauveterre de Guyenne, Langon, Villandraut, St. Symphorien. 62 miles.

3th June. St. Symphorien. North part of Les Landes, South of Sauternes and Bordeaux.

Camping Vert Bord'Eau. 2 au moulin de Lescroumpes (route de Sore D220) - 33113 SAINT SYMPHORIEN Tél : 05 56 25 79 54 - 06 07 08 37 28 - camping@vertbordeau.com. Good restaurant small pool. Friendly place. Very near supermarket. Amongst pines. Nice walks.

Sore, Pissos, Liposthey, A63, Jn 6, Bayonne, A810, Biarritz. 109 miles.

14th / 15th June Biarritz. Camping Biarritz. Hugh arrived afternoon of 14th.

Camping Biarritz, 28 Rue d'Harcet, 64200 Biarritz. <https://www.biarritz-camping.fr/campsite-france-basque-country?upd=7671> Phone : 00.33.(0)5.59.23.00.12 Email :

biarritz.camping@gmail.com E-mail: info@biarritz-camping.fr. Large site with very small pitches, many sloping with no shade. Good pool, restaurant and shop. 700 m from beach. Stupidly close at midday for 3 hours.

A63, Bardos, Bidache, past Sauveterre de Bearne, Navarrenz, Oloron-Ste.-Marie, Aramits. 77 miles.

16 – 18th June. Aramits. South West of Oloron Ste Marie.

Campsite Barétous-Pyrénées, 6 chemin Ripaude Aramits - 64570. Oloron-Ste-Marie. Excellent. Small pool. Good restaurant/snack bar. Good pitches. Restaurants in town (close). Very good walks and bike rides. Good Wifi. Saw buzzards, kites, Egyptian vulture, dipper.

Oloron- Ste – Marie, A64 past Tarbes, Lannemazan, St. giron, Foix, Lescure, Mas d'Azil. 140 miles.

19th June. Le Mas d'Azil. North East of St. Girons, North West of Foix.

Le Petit Pyrénéen, le Castagnès, 09290 Le Mas d'Azil. Excellent site. Shady pitches. Very good snack bar/restaurant. Small pool. 2km to village. Near river. Walks.

Sabarat, Pailhes, E9, Foix, Tarascon, Ax-les-Thermes, Col de Puymorens, Mont Louis, Matemale. 103 miles.

20 -22nd June. Matemale. South of Carcassonne between Axat and Mont-Louis. Near Les Angles.

At 1500m. Camping du Lac. 04 68 30 9449 Great village restaurant. Wonderful grassy site with sweet smelling conifers, nesting redstarts, tree pipits, serins and good views. Near lake. Nearby swimming pool. Great walks and bike rides.

Matemale, Mont Louis, Villefranche de Confluent, past Prades, Ille sur Tet, Millas, Estagel, Paziols, Tuchan. 68 miles.

23-25th June. Tuchan. c 40 miles North-West of Perpignan. Simple site very near village. Nice

small pool. Camping La Peirière. 0033 468 454650 lapeiriere@caramail.com Simple good restaurant. Home of Fitou wine. Previously saw Wryneck. Noisy Cicadas and wonderful nightingales. Nice walks. Friendly.

Tuchan, St. Paul de Fenouillet, Quillan, Puivert, Foix, St. Girons, Mane. 122 miles.

26th June. Mane. 18km East of St. Gaudens.

Camping de la Justale. Plain, Pool, no shop or restaurant. Great restaurant in nearby village. *Mane, A64 past Tarbes, Pau, Orthez, A63, D10 to Bidart/Ilbarritz. 153 miles. (Hugh total 663 miles)*

27 – 28th June. Camping Ilbarritz. Between Bidart and Biarritz. (Hugh flew home from Biarritz airport).

Camping ILBARRITZ. Yellow village, Avenue de Biarritz, 64210 Bidart, FRANCE. All pitches include an individual small hut with loo, shower, fridge and microwave. And shaded picnic table. So expensive. Very friendly. Nearby shop. Huge pools. Beach walking distance (downhill). Rocky and steep.

Bidart, A63 past Dax, Tartas, Souprosse. 62 miles.

29th June. Ferme du Titon. France Passion. Ducks. Stonechat, Black Redstart. Stopped doing ducks so only confit du Canard. Friendly. Walks.

Souprosse, Mont du Marsan, Castelialoux, Marmande, Duras, St Foy, St. Aulaye. 131 miles.

30th June. St. Aulaye. Camping la Riviere Fleurie. *See above.* Got stuck in mud.

St Aulaye, Villefranche de Lonchat, La Roche Chalais, Chalais, Barbezioux-St.-Hilaire, Segonzac, Chez Richon. 82 miles.

1st July. Chex Richon. Near Segonzac between Cognac and Angouleme.

France Passion site. Cognac Michel Forgeron. Lovely in orchard amongst vines. Had enjoyable tasting of cognac with Francine. Nice walks amongst the vines.

Segonzac, N141, N10 around Poitiers, Loudon, Montreuil-Bellay, Doue-en-Anjou, Gennes-val-de-Loire. 166 miles.

2nd – 3rd July. Gennes.

Camping Au bord de Loire. 1 Place du 19 Mars, Gennes 49350, Maine et Loire (49) – France. Large relaxed friendly site. Next to village and the bridge over La Loire. Occasional snack bar. *Gennes, over bridge, Rosiers-s-Loire, Bauge, La fleche, Sable-sur-Sarthe, Bouessay, Le Horps, Lassay-les-Chateaux. 96 miles.*

4th July. Lassay-les-Chateaux. Ferme de Tom. France Passion. Sheep. Wonderful dinner. *Lassay-les-Chateaux, agnoles l’Orne, La Ferte Mace, Falaise, St. Pierre-sur-Dives (deviation – lost etc), Merville-Franceville Plage. 88 miles.*

5th-6th July. Merville-Franceville Plage. Ten miles from Oustraham on road towards Cabourg. Camping de la Mer, Route de Cabourg, 14810 MERVILLE FRANCEVILLE PLAGE. Direct access to vast sandy beach. Next to Le Point du Jour and 4 other sites. No swimming pool. Very informal. We prefer it to the other sites. 20 minute walk to restaurants along beach.

7th July Oustraham and home.

France 2019 Itinerary

Wednesday 21st August – Wednesday 25th September. Liz + Chris in Campervan (Lifestyle). Hugh unable to come as he had another holiday. Our first aim was to visit Liz’s niece in Voucherons near Lausanne. Ferry Portsmouth to Caen (Oustraham). Total: 1996 miles (about 3,500km).

Summary *New campsite.

Oustraham, Livarot, Belleme, Nogent-le-Rotrou, Brou, **Cloyes sur Le Loir***; Lamotte Beuvron, Vailly s Saudre, Vinon, La Charite s Loire, Premery, Chatillon en Bazois, **Maux***; Chateau-Chinon, Autun, Chalons-s-Saone, Lons-le-Saunier, **Le Doucier***; Champagnole, towards Pontarlier, Bonnevaux, Yverdon, Moudon, **Voucherons**; Geneve, St. Julien au Genervois, FRANCE, Frangy, Seyssel, **Massignieu de Rives***; Belley, Voiron, past Grenoble to Monestier de Clermont, Col de Croix-Hautes, **Lus la Croix Hautes**; Serres, Nyons, St Maurice-s-Eygues, **Visan***; Bellene, Pont-St-Esprit, Bagnols -s- Ceze, Ales, Anduze, St Hippolyte-du-Fort, **Le Vigan**; Montardier, Lodeve, Badarieux, Olargues, Riols, **St. Pons de Thomieres**; past Narbonne, Loucarte, Le Bacares, **Argeles Plages**; St. Cyprien, Le Bacares, past Rivesaltes, Estagel, **Tuchan**; Estagel, Axat, Quillan, Lavelanet, Foix, **St. Girons***; St. Gaudens, Lannemezan, Vic en Bigorre, Aire sur L’Adour, **Grenade sur L’Adour***; Mont de Marsan, Labrit, Sore, **St. Symphorien**; Langon, Sauveterre, La Roche-Chalais, Chalais, St-Eutrope, Chateauneuf- s- Charente, St. Meme-les-Carrieres, **Chez Richon***; Carnac, Rouillac, Aigre, Ruffec, Poitiers, Loudon, Montreuil-Bellay, Monereau, **Saumur**; Jongue, Bauge, La Fleche, Sable, Mayenne, **Ricordeau, L’Aventura***; Ambieres, Domfront, Flers, Thury-Harcourt, Rocquancourt, Oustraham, **Merville-Franceville Plage**, Oustraham, Home.

17 campsites (9 new); 4 were France Passion. Total 1,996 miles.

Detailed itinerary, and campsites

Oustraham, Troarn, Livarot, Gace, Belleme, Nogent-le-Rotrou, Brou, Cloyes sur Le Loir [158 miles]

22nd August. Thursday. 2 nights. Cloyes sur Le Loir [Eure et Loire 28]. Between Chateaudun and Vendome.

Camping le Val Fleuri*. Very large site aimed at children with families -2 pools, train, ponies, pedalo, kayak, bouncy castle. Pitches shady and ok. Not our sort of site. Nice small restaurant. Short walk to beautiful village on bank of Le Loir. Very good restaurants.

Beaugency (diversion from Meung), La Ferte St. Aubin, Lamotte Beuvron, Ardents Saudre, Vailly s Saudre, past Sancerre, Vinon (route to Pouilly blocked), Sancergues, La Charite s Loire, Premery, Chatillon en Bazois, Maux on way to Chateau Chinon [176 miles]

24th August. Saturday. 1 night. Maux [Nièvre 58]. Between Nevers and Chateau-Chinon

France Passion site* Next to a chateau and farm. Nice walks. Very friendly. Charolais cattle.

Chateau-Chinon, Autun, Le Creusot, Chalons-s-Saone, Louhans-Chateaufort, Lons-le-Saunier, Le Doucier [128 miles].

25th August. Sunday. 1 night. Le Doucier [Jura 39]. Between Lons-le-Saunier and Champagne.

Domaine de l'Épinette. Inexpensive and nice with small pool and restaurant. Big shady pitches, bit sloping. On river with kayak access.

Champagne, towards Pontarlier, Bonnevaux, Metabief, Yverdon, Pomy, Moudon, Voucherons [91 miles].

26th August. Monday 1 night. Voucherons - small village in Switzerland, North of Lausanne.

With Liz's niece and her husband.

Motorway around Lausanne, Geneva, St. Julien au Genevois, FRANCE, Frangy, Seyssel, towards Culoz, Massignieu de Rives [104 miles].

27th August. Tuesday. 3 nights. Massignieu de Rives [Ain 01]. East of Belley.

Camping Lac du Lit du Roi. Wonderful site with good shady pitches on shore of a small lake. Small pool. Jetty for launching kayaks etc. Very good restaurant. Many egrets and dragonflies.

Belley, St. Genix sur Gulers, Les Abrets aux Dauphine, Chirens, Voirons, Motorway past Grenoble to Monestier de Clermont, Col de Croix-Hautes, Lus la Croix Hautes [100 miles].

30th August. Friday. 3 nights. Lus La Croix-Hautes [Drome 26]. North West of Gap, South of Grenoble.

La Condamine. A favourite informal site. 15 minute country walk to lovely village with market and restaurants. Excellent camp restaurant. No pool but there is said to be a piscine in village but we didn't notice. Excellent walks with impressive mountains (Vercors) all around.

Aspres-sur-Bruech, Serres, Montclus, Nyons, St Maurice-s-Eygues, Visan [73 miles].

2nd September. Monday. 1 night. Visan [Vaucluse 84]. South East of Nyons, North West of Orange.

France Passion. Domaine de Lucena*. Cotes du Rhone Villages vineyard. Pitches laid out neatly between olive trees, with electric hook ups. Very friendly. Wine tasting at any time. Michel good fun. Good walks among the vines. View of Rhone valley and distant Le Ventoux mountain.

Visan, Bellene, Pont-St-Esprit, Bagnols -s- Ceze, Seyne, Ales, Anduze, St Hippolyte-du-Fort, Ganges, Le Vigan [99 miles].

3rd September. Tuesday. 3 nights. Le Vigan [Lot 46]. North West of Nimes, South East of Millau.

Le Val de L'Arre. A favourite site on banks of L'Arre. Very happy friendly place with good pool and restaurant. Small shop. Bread delivered to your door. Not far from astronomical observatory on Mont Aigoual.

Montardier, St Maurice de Navacelles (narrow, winding not nice), Lodeve, Lunas, Badarieux, Herepian, Mons, Olargues, Riols, St. Pons de Thomieres [78 miles].

6th September. Friday. 1 night. St Pons de Thomieres [Herault 34]. North West of Beziers.

Les Cerisiers du Jaur. Nice site in Jaur valley. Small pool. Small restaurant closed. Good walks on Voie Vert into town and also up the valley.

St Pons, past Narbonne, Sigean, Loucarte, Le Bacares, St. Cyprien, Argeles Plages [84 miles].

7th September. Saturday. 5 nights. Argeles Plages [Pyrenees-Orientales 66]. Halfway between Perpignan and Spain.

Camping Le Soleil. Favourite site on beach amongst pine trees. Well shaded large pitches. Excellent restaurant and separate takeaway. Huge heated pools. Direct access to beach and to walks on the nature reserve. Usually hoopoes and bee-eaters but none this late in the year.

St. Cyprien, Le Bacares, past Rivesaltes, Estagel, Paziols, Tuchan [49 miles].

12th September. 3 nights. Tuchan [Aude 11]. North West of Perpignan, South East of Carcassonne.

La Peiriere. A favourite site. Quiet, shady pitches. Cold nice pool, Excellent restaurant always open. 10 minute walk up to the nice village with shops. Lovely views. Good walks. The Fitou wine region.

Estagel, Maury, St. Paul de Fenouillet, Axat, Quillan, Puivert, Lavelanet, Foix, St. Giron [111 miles]. We had intended to stay at France Passion Mon Potager near St giron but they were expecting 17 vans that evening so we went on to St. Giron.

15th September. Sunday. 1 night. St. Giron [Ariege 09]. West of Foix, South East of St. Gaudens.

Parc de Paletes*. Good site with pool and small restaurant. Nice pitches but all on terraces with steep walks to get anywhere. Town not close enough for easy walk.

St. Giron, St. Gaudens, Lannemezan, Castelnau, Masseur, Miellans, Vic en Bigorre, Rabestens, Aire sur L'Adour, Grenade sur L'Adour [151 miles]. Lovely drive as far as Lannemezan then narrow winding dull roads.

16th September. Monday. 2 nights. Grenade sur L'Adour [Landes 40]. South of Mont de Marsan.

Camp Municipal, Grenade sur L'Adour*. Excellent site with shady pitches. Few facilities. Next to municipal swimming pool (closed - off season). Near Carrefour. Calm walks in both directions on river bank. 10 minutes to beautiful small village with bars and at least one excellent restaurant.

Around Mont de Marsan, Labrit, Luxey, Sore, St. Symphorien [53 miles].

18th September. Wednesday. 2 nights. St. Symphorien [Gironde 33]. North part of Les Landes, South of Sauternes and Bordeaux.

Campsite Vert Bord'eau. Good restaurant (closed off season but bar open). Small pool. Very near supermarket. Amongst very tall pines by river and small lake. Nice walks. Very friendly happy place.

St. Symphorien, Villandraut, Langon, Sauveterre, Porte-st-Foy-et-Ponchapt, Montpon-Menestrol, La Roche-Chalais, Chalais, St-Eutrope, Chateauneuf-s-Charente, St. Meme-les-Carrieres, Chez Richon [132 miles].

20th September. Friday. 1 night. Chez Richon [Charente 16]. Near St.-Meme-les-Carrieres Between Cognac and Angouleme.

France Passion. Cognac Michel Forgeron.* Lovely large flat site under many trees amongst the vineyards. Had enjoyable tasting of cognac and Pineau de Charentes with Michel and Francine who gave us explanations of the processes in making them while sitting next to the very old distillation equipment. Of course we bought some. Nice walks amongst the vines, harvesting being due next day.

Carnac, Sigognes, Rouillac, Aigre, Courcombe, Ruffec, motorway towardsPoitiers, Loudon, Montreuil-Bellay,Fontevraus-l'Abbaye, Monereau, Saumur [142 miles].

21st September. Saturday. 2 nights. Saumur [Maine-et-Loire 49]. Between Angers and Tours. Camping Ile d'Offard. Often visited. Large well run shady site. On river Loire. 20 minute walk by river over bridge into Saumur. Good pool and camp restaurant. Town very interesting with many restaurants.

Jongue, Bauge, La Fleche, Sable, St Loup du Dorat, Vaigues, Monsur (nice village campsite here), Mayenne, Ricordeau, L'Aventura [102 miles].

23rd September. Monday. 1 night. Ricordeau near Mayenne [Mayenne 53]. Between Mayenne and Alencon.

France Passion, L'Escargots Mayennais (listed as Marcille la ville)*. They call their farm L'Aventura. Strange site on a snail farm. 1 million snails kept in by electric fence. Grassy sloping. Nice walks on little roads.

Ambieres, Ceauce, Domfront, Flers, Conde-s-Noireau, Thury-Harcourt, Rocquancourt, Ouistraham (Carrefour), Merville-Franceville Plage [53 miles].

24th September. Tuesday. 1 night. Merville-Franceville Plage [Calvados 14]. Between Ouistraham and Cabourg.

Camping Le Point du Jour. Good site with rather small hedged pitches. Indoor small pool. Opens direct onto beach. No restaurant out of season. Good restaurant best accessed by 20 minute walk on beach.

Oustraham Ferry and home (31 miles)

France 2018 Itinerary

Tuesday 5th June – Tuesday 10th July. Liz + Chris in Campervan (Lifestyle). Hugh unable to come as he had another holiday.

Ferry Portsmouth to Caen (Ouistraham). Just Chris and Liz. Total: 1,852 miles; (about 3,000km).

Summary

Ouistraham, Domfront, Laval, Chateau-Gontier, **Montjean sur Loire***; Melay, Bressure, Secondigny, St. Maixent l'Ecole, Sauze-Vaussais, **Puy d'Anche***; Rouillac, Chateauneuf-s-Charente, Blanzac, La Roche Chalais, **St Aulaye***; Pellegrue, Langon, **St Symphorien***; Mont de Marsan, Orthez, Sauveterre de Bearn, Navarrenx, Oloron ste Marie, **Aramits***; Col de Pierre St Martin, Arette, Arudy, **Louvie-Juzon ***; Lourdes, Mauvezin, **Heches***; past Lannamezan, around St. Gaudens, St. Girons, **Le Mas d'Azil***; Foix, Quillan, St. Paul de Fenouillet, **Maury***; Estagel, Thuir, **Argeles**

Plages; bad route to Estagel [many diversions] Estagel, **Tuchan;** Durban, Lezignan-Corbieres, St. Pons-Thomieres, Olargues, Moulin, **Vieussan***; Baderieux, Lodeve, St. Maurice Navacelles, **Le Vigan;** Ganges, Anduze, Ales, Florac, Mendes, Chateauneuf de Randon, **Col de Croix de Bor;** St Alban sur Limagnole, St Chely d'Apcher, Riom, **St. Gervais d'Auvergne***; St. Eloy des Mines, Bourbon l'Archevambault, Sancoins, (past La Charite-s-Loire), Herry, **Pouilly sur Loire;** Vinon, Aubigny, Lamotte-Beuvron, Meung sur Loire, Patay, **Bonneval;** Brou, Mortagne au Perche, Livarot, Troarn, Ranville, **Merville-Franceville;** Ouistraham.

***New campsite.**

Detailed itinerary and campsites

Ouistraham, Thury Harcourt, Domfront, Laval, Chateau-Gontier, Erdre en Anjou, Le Lion d'Angers, St. Augustin des Bois, Montjean sur Loire [185 miles]

6th June. Wednesday. 3 nights. Montjean-sur-Loire [Maine et Loire 49]. West of Angers. La Promenade (Flower camping)*. On bank of Loire. Very good restaurant by the bridge in village (10 minutes walk). Nice walks by river. Small pool.

Chalonnnes sur Loire, Melay, Vihiers, Bressure, Secondigny, St. Maixent l'Ecole, Lezay, Sauze-Vaussais, Puy d'Anche [124 miles].

9th June. Saturday. 1 night. Puy d'Anche near Sauze-Vaussais. . [Deux Sevres 79]. South East of Niort, North of Ruffec. France Passion site*. Black pig farm. Restaurant (closed for special occasion). Nice walks.

Villefagnan, Aigre, Rouillac, Chateauneuf -s-Charente, Blanzac, St Eutrope Chalais, La Roche Chalais, Montpon-Monesterol, St Antoine de Breuilh , St Aulaye [118 miles; Very nice drive].

June 10th. Sunday. 3 nights. St Aulaye [Dordogne 24]. Between Libourne and Bergerac. Camping La Fleurie*. Next to Dordogne. Good restaurant and pool, nice walks and bike rides.

Pellegrue, Sauveterre de Guyenne, Langon, Vellendrait, St Symphorien [60 miles] Nice drive through famous vineyards.

13th June. Wednesday. 2 nights. St. Symphorien. [Gironde 33]. North part of Les Landes, South of Sauternes and Bordeaux.

Campsite Vert Bord'eau*. Good restaurant small pool. Very near supermarket. Amongst pines. Nice walks.

Sore, Labrit, Mont de Marsan, Hagetmau, Orthez, Salies de Bearn, Sauveterre de Bearn, Navarrenx, Oloron ste Marie, Aramits [130 miles]. We had intended to camp at Sauveterre de Bearn but the river had flooded and wrecked one of our favourite campsites.

15th June. Friday. 3 nights. Aramits [Pyrenees Atlantiques 64]. South west of Oloron Ste Marie.

Baretous-Pyrenees. Small pool. Good restaurant/snack bar. Good pitches. Restaurants in town (close). Very good walks and bike rides. Good Wifi. Saw buzzards, kites, Egyptian vulture, dipper.

Went for trip up to Col de Pierre St Martin by way of Aramits and Arette. Misty at top. Took very good pictures of Alpine Choughs. Down to Arette, Arudy, Louvie-Juzon [57 miles].

18th June. Monday. . 1 night. Louvie-Juzon [Pyrenees Atlantiques 64]. South of Pau, South East of Oloron Ste Marie

Camping Le Rey*. Neat small site. Small pool (closed). Free wifi. Very good small camp restaurant. Run down town has nothing in it. Nowhere to walk or ride.

Lourdes, Bagnères de Bigorre, Mauvezin, Capvern, Heches [63 miles].

19th June Tuesday. 1 night. Heches [Hautes Pyrenees 65]. East of Lannamezan, South East of Tarbes. Up the Vallee d'Aurie towards Aragnuet tunnel.

Camping La Beurie*. Nice site well back from road beside fast overfull river. In foothills. Nice walks. Pool and snack bar (both closed). Village 15 minute walk. I remember it for the big brick chimney stack.

North towards Lannamezan, Montrajeau (beautiful small town), around St. Gaudens, St. Martory, St. Girons, Grotte du Mas d'Azil, Le Mas d'Azil [76 miles]

20th July. 2 nights. Le Maz d'Azil. [Pyrenees Orientales 66]. North East of St. Girons North West of Foix.

Le Petit Pyreneen*. Excellent site. Shady pitches. Very good snack bar/restaurant. Small pool (closed). 2km to village. Walks.

Pailhas, Foix, Laavalanet, Puivert, Quillan, past Axat, St. Paul de Fenouillet, Maury. [87 miles].

22nd June Friday. 1 night. Maury [Pyrenees Orientales 66]. Halfway between Axat and Estagel.

France Passion site. Domaine des Vignes d'Elodie*. Very good wine (expensive). Nice walks. Interesting village (not visited).

Estagel, Thuir, Elnes, Bages, Taxo, Argeles Plages. [47 miles including diversions].

23rd June, Saturday. 5 nights. Argeles Plages [Pyrenees Orientales 66]. Near Argeles sur Mer, South of Perpignan.

Camping Le Soleil. Huge site with direct access to beach and nature reserve. A favourite site. Shops, large pool, excellent restaurant.

Tried country route but many routes barred [51 miles]. Recommend: Canet Plage, Le Bacares, Rivesaltes, Estagel, Tuchan.

28th June, Thursday. 3 nights. Tuchan. [Pyrenees Orientales 66]. North West of Rivesaltes and Perpignan.

Camping La Peiriere. Short walk to the village (home of Fitou wines). Favourite site. Shady pitches with great views. Excellent restaurant. Good small pool. Good walks and bike rides.

Durban, Thezan, Lezignan-Corbieres, St. Pons-Thomieres, Olargues, Moulin, Vieussan [86 miles].

1st July, Sunday. 1 night. Vieussan [Aude 11]. Halfway between St Pons de Thomieres and Baderieux.

France Passion site. Domaine Carriere-Audier. Excellent inexpensive wine (St Chinian region). Friendly shady site. Nice walks. Next to river with kayaking.

Moulin, Baderieux, Lunas, Lodeve, St. Pierre de la Fage, St. Maurice Navacelles, Montardier, Le Vigan [Wonderful drive, 67 miles].

2nd July, Monday 2 nights. Le Vigan [Gard 30]. South West of Ales, North of Montpellier.

Camping Val de l'Arre. Friendly site by good river. Nice walks. Good restaurant and pool.

Ganges, St Hippolyte du Fort, Anduze, Ales, Les Salles, Le Collet de Daze, Florac, Mendes, Badaroux, Chateauneuf de Randon, Barraque de la Motte, Col de Trois Soeurs, Col de Croix de Bor [142 miles 5.5 hours].

4th July Wednesday. 1 night. Col de Croix de Bor. [Lozere 48]. North of Mende, South West of Le Puy en Velay.

Col de Croix de Bor. Our favourite wild site (camping sauvage) in Les Margerides. Sadly we were told in the morning by a ranger that we cannot camp there as it is in a Foret Domeniale.

St Denis, St Alban sur Limagnole, St Chely d'Apcher, on A75 to Riom, Manzat, St. Gervais d'Auvergne [142 miles].

5th July Thursday. 1 night. St Gervais d'Auvergne [Puy de Dome 63]. North West of Riom and Clermont-Ferrand.

Camping Municipal, L'Etaing de Philippe*. By big lake. Near village with 5 restaurants all closed. Snack bar (closed).

St. Eloy des Mines, Montmerault, Bourbon l'Archevau, Lurcy-Levis, Sancoins, La Guerche sur Aubeis, (past La Charite-s-Loire, Herry, Pouilly sur Loire [??])

6th July Friday. 1 night. Pouilly sur Loire [Nievre 58]. South of Sancerre.

Camping municipal La Malaga. Nice wide open site on banks of La Loire. Bar but no snacks (changed from last time). Nice walk on river bank but not much else.

St Bouize, Vinon, Montereol, Vailly sur Saudre, Aubigny (very difficult, best avoided), Lamotte-Beuvron, La Ferte St, Aubin, Jouy le Potier, Meung sur Loire (nice for lunch), Patay, Gaubert, Bonneval [127 miles].

7th July Saturday. 1 night. Bonneval [Eure et Loir 28]. North of Chateaudun, South of Chartres.

Camping Bois de Chievres. Nice wooded site run by Michel and Pascal with their cats and parrots. Nice walks and rides. Excellent restaurant (special pizza with aubergine, magret de canard and wild ceps).

Brou, Belleme, Mortagne au Perche, Gace, Livarot, St Pierres sur Dives, Troarn, Ranville, Merville-Franceville [150 miles]

8th July Sunday, 2 nights. Merville-Franceville Plage [Calvados 14]. East of Ouistraham, West of Cabourg.

Camping La Mer. Excellent relaxed site with widely spaced pitches. Direct access to the huge beach. Excellent restaurants 20 minute walk along beach.

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 Saudre, **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,
Briançon, Vallée de la Clarelle, **Nevalche ***; Briançon, 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
Braye***; St Calais, La Ferte Bernard, Mortagne au Perche, Gace, Vimoutiers, Livarot, Troarn,
Cabourg, **Merville-Franceville Plage***, Oustraham, home.

***New campsite.**

Detailed itinerary and campsites

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

7th 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]*

9th 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]*

10th June. Saturday. 2 nights. La Celle en Morvan [Saone et Loire, 71]. Les deux Rivières*.
Pool. Well organised Dutch site shady by river. Hoopoes, nightingales, damsel flies. 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]

12th 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]

14th 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]

16th 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]*

20th 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].

21st 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]

25th 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]

26th 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)

30th 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]

2nd 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].

3rd 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]

5th 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]

7th 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]

8th 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]*

9th 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]*

10th 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.

11th 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 (Oustraham). Just Chris and Liz. Picked up Hugh at Perpignan airport on Saturday 18th June and delivered him back Saturday 2nd July. So Chris and Liz had 10 days before Hugh, 14 days with him and 10 days after. Total: 2,050miles; 3,300km

Oustraham, 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, Lavaur, 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]

8th June Wednesday. Les Rosiers sur Loire*. 2nights. 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]

10th 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]

11th 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]*

13th 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, Lavaur, Puy Laurens, Revel, Les Cammazes [88miles]*

14th 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]*

15th 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]

17th 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]*

20th 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]

21st 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]

25th June, Saturday 2 nights. Font-Romeu. Huttoopia 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]
27th 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].

1st 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]*

2nd 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.

3rd 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]

6th 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].*

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

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

8th 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]*

9th 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]

10th 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].

11th 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.

12th July to Oustraham and Ferry. [10 miles].

France 2015 Itinerary

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

Ferry Portsmouth to Caen (Oustraham). Hugh flew back on 20th June from Avignon [Flybe].

Total: 1,847 miles; 2,972km.

Oustraham, Mayenne, Bauge, **Lac Rille**; Langeais, Motorway past Tours, Vierzon, Clermond-Ferrand, **La Chaise Dieu**; Le Puy en Velay, Aubenas, Die, **Luc en Diois**; Gap, Barcelonnette, **Larche**;

Barcelonette, 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**; **Ouistrahram, Portsmouth, Southampton**.
***New campsite.**

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

4th 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)

8th 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, Solignac sur Loire, Pradelles, Thueyts, Aubenas, Privas, Crest, Die, Luc en Diois [161 miles]. A wonderful drive; this route avoids Valence.

9th 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, Barcelonette, Meyronnes, Larche. [108 miles].

10th 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.

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

15th 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]

19th 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].

20th 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.

24th 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].

27th 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-sur-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.

29th 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]

2nd 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].

4th 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].

5th 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.

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

France 2014 Itinerary

Wednesday 28th May – Monday 30th June. Liz + Chris + Hugh in our Campervan Kon-tiki. Ferry Portsmouth to Caen (Ouistraham). Hugh flew back on 14th 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].

29th 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, Perigeux, (A89, D710), Le Bugue [264 miles].

1st 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].

3rd 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.

7th 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.

10th 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].

4th 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].

17th 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].

18th 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.

21st 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].

23rd 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-

26th 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-Jumelles, Bauge, La fleche, Sable-s-Sarthe, Brulon, Sille-La-Guillaume, Sille-Plage. [74 miles].

28th 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].

29th 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.

30th June. Ouistraham, Portsmouth, Home [22 miles].

France 2013 Itinerary

Wednesday 10th July – Thursday 15th August 18th Liz + Chris + Hugh in our Campervan Kon-tiki. Ferry Portsmouth to Caen (Ouistraham). Hugh flew back on 27th 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, Barcelonnette, *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.

11th 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.

15th 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]

17th 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].

18th 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]

22nd 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]

26th 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].

27th 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.

30th 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].

31st 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].

2nd 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]

5th 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.*

7th 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].

10th 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].

11th 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].

13th 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].

14th 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, *Gleon*; 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, Chateuneuf-de-Randon, *Col de Croix de Bor*; St-Alban-sur-Limagnols, Chaude-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'Ile-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'Ile-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].

15th 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].

18th 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].

21st 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].

22nd 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].

24th 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].

26th 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].

1st 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].

4th 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-Corbières, to Motorway past Narbonne, Beziers, to Sete, Frontagnan, Les Tamaris [74 miles].

5th 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].

7th 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].

9th 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].

11th 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].

12th July. Neuveglise*. 1 night.** Good friendly terraced site. Nice small pool. Lovely views.

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

13th 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].

14th 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, Bourgneuf, Pontarion, Gueret, Bretouillis, Bonnat, Aigurande, Le Fey, Argenton-sur-Creuse, St-Gaultier, Ciron, Port de la Brenne, Rosnay [119 miles].

15th 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'île-Bouchard, past Chinon, Candes-st-Martin, Saumur [90 miles].

16th 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].

17th 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
18th 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 Barcelonette 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 to *Col de la Croix de Bor*; past Chaudes aigues, **St Flour, Riom es Montagnes** to *Trizac*; by Ussel, La Courtine, Auzances to *Evau 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].

17th 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].

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

Yssingeaux, 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.

22nd 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].

24th 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.

28th 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]

2nd 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].

3rd 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].

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

Aveze, Alzon, Nant, Revens, Randals Bison [nr Languejols on Causse Noir] [41miles]

8th 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].*

9th July. Saturday. Causse Mejean.** 2 nights. Wild camping. Vultures, deer, choughs.

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

11th 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, Chateauneuf de Randon [nice hill village with good shops] Col de la Croix de Bor [50 miles].

12th 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.

13th 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].

15th 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]

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

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

17th 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].

18th July. Ferry home from Ouistraham.

Our 2010 Itinerary

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. Enimie and Chateauneuf-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 [220 miles].*

29th 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]

30th -31st 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].

1st – 4th 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, Bagneres-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. Enemy, 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 Auvergnnes. 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, Barcelonette, Le Lauzet-Ubaye, Savine le Lac, Gap, Col Bayard, Laye [73 miles]

9. **12th Sept. [Laye*](#)**. 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

12th June – 11th 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. 13th, 14th 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. 15th – 18th 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; www.camping-europe.fr

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

3. 19th , 20th 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

<http://www.camping-lacdehoux.com/uk/camping-caravaning-france.php>

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

4. 21st – 23rd 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

Mont Louis, Egat [16 miles]

5. 24th 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. 25th – 29th 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. 30th 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 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. 1st, 2nd 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, Nivoliers [105 miles].

9. 3rd, 4th 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

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

10. 5th, 6th 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 <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. 9th 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
<http://www.frankrijkgek.nl/dep/23/Le%20Bourg-d-Hem%20-%20Camping%20Municipal%20I%27Age.php>

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

13. 10th 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

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. 26th – 28th 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

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

2. 29th June. Meyrieu les Etaings. Dull stopover lakeside site. In Isere region.

Base de loisirs du Moulin. Camping ***0474 593034 www.camping-meyrieu.com

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

3. 30th June – 2nd 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 Cogne, Vallée d'Aoste, Italie Tel. +39 0165 74152 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

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 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 info@camping-avignon.com

Arlès, 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 <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

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<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

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, Toufflailles, 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 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. 30 min 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; www.camping-europe.fr

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

3. 7th June. Toufflailles. 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

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

Mont Louis, Bourg-Madam, 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

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

10. Senonches. Ouistraham, Caen [104 miles]