



ALBI and CORDES sur CIEL



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Wednesday the 20th of June 2012 at 9:00am - Departure by bus from Pierre Baudis Congress Centre to Albi

Language of the tour: English



This most Italian city of the Tarn region will enchant you: Albi's ancient and typical centre looks like Tuscany. A medium-sized city, located in a heartland on the banks of the Tarn river, Albi is be proud of its rich heritage from the past and the Episcopal city has been classified a UNESCO world heritage site, on July 31st, 2010.

From the 11th century, the **Pont Vieux** ("old bridge") allowed considerable economic development of the city. The 16th century private hotels is reminiscent of the flourishing period when the **pastel** plant was cultivated and processed between Albi, Toulouse and Carcassonne. This period is characterized by the existence of people such as **Henri de Toulouse Lautrec** or adventurers like **Lapérouse** and **Rochegude**.



In the morning, you will visit the **Vieil Albi**, the cathedral and Toulouse Lautrec Museum. You will discover the old part of the city ("Vieil Albi"), which is a great site of Midi-Pyrénées region, and its impressive Sainte-Cécile Cathedral with extraordinary paintings and sculptures, as well as the Palais de la Berbie which hosts a museum dedicated to Toulouse Lautrec painter. Toulouse Lautrec museum redraws the writings of the "albigeois" painter (from Albi) and his life in Parisian cabarets when he was young.

Lunch at 12:30pm in a restaurant in Albi: a three-course menu including wine and coffee.





Departure at 2:00pm to Cordes sur Ciel

Cordes sur Ciel fascinates all those who discover it because it is initially like a mirage: that of a city launching itself into the sky.

It is a living piece of history and art, holding alive in its stones the memory of all those who have passed through it since its creation in 1222 by the Count of Toulouse.

Its exceptional site, its remarkable architectural heritage, make it one of the most significant medieval cities of France, and one of the key sites of European heritage. It has been classified in the official "Great Sites of Midi-Pyrénées"!

Its authentic lifestyle has attracted and retained many of those who find their inspiration there. Sheltering behind solid timber doors, with the magnificent carved frontages of Gothic art one can still find the sumptuous residences of earlier times. They say that the creation of the city was overseen by the stars, and that the site was chosen by destiny.

By walking through the streets, and crossing the thresholds, one seems to journey through the centuries, leafing through a fabulous book of art.



Return to Toulouse at 4:30pm – Drop off at 6:00pm at Pierre Baudis Congress Centre

This rate includes:

- the services of an English speaking guide for the whole day until 07:00 pm maximum.
- the entrance fees: the choir of the cathedral, Toulouse Lautrec museum, the tourist train of Cordes.
- the three-course lunch with drinks
- the transport by bus

