



Brochure

French Riding Holidays



Safely home from our second short break with you this year, and happy as we always are after a top up tonic at FRH. See you all later in the year for more fabulous horses, food, and great company.

Howard and Myrna



The Mas De Clamouze in the Midi Pyrenees

The *Aveyron Region* is the largest department in France but the least populated, giving an abundance of space.

The land on which *French Riding Holidays* is based is called 'Mas de Clamouze' which is *old French* for 'the Farm of the Spring'. The spring emerges from an underground chasm which in places is up to 50 metres deep and runs from the side of the valley about 1km to the town of Asprieres. Local residents tell stories of the caves being used for clandestine Catholic marriages when the religion was banned in the area and later by the French Resistance for hiding food and arms during the war, the entrance which is located within our 58 acres of wooded valley.

The Mas de Clamouze has been noted for its calming ambience. Many guests comment on how quickly they "*unwind*" here compared to other holiday destinations - one corporate lawyer told us that normally it takes her the first four days of her holiday to relax but, at the Mas de Clamouze she felt immediately at home.

In 1987, a group of visiting American Scientists did some tests on the geology of the area and magnetic Ley lines. They concluded that the abnormally high concentration of these offered a scientific explanation for the wonderful ambience.

Your accommodation is in a purpose built Gite adjacent to the original Farmhouse of Mas de Clamouze. We have four en-suite chambres each individually decorated in the French Style with antique French furniture. We also have 2 twin rooms in the original farm house. We can cater for single guests or parties of up to ten.

All bed linen and shower and pool towels are supplied and each chambre is equipped with a hand soap, shower gel, hair dryer, dressing gowns and Bluetooth speakers. Other basic toiletries can be provided if forgotten!

Our large airy seating and dining areas have sun terraces on three sides overlooking our wooded valley and out across the Aveyron Plain, the perfect place for alfresco dining which is possible for most of the year.

Our comfortable seating area is warmed on cooler evenings or on wintry days by our woodburner with logs gathered from our own land. This makes Christmas and New Year breaks at *French Riding Holidays* really special.

The conveniently situated 10m X 5m swimming pool, gives you the opportunity for an early morning swim, a cooling dip at lunch time or great relaxation after a day in the saddle.





A Horse Riders Paradise!

French Riding Holidays is situated in the most beautiful corner of this magnificent country and this coupled with the French land access laws and mile upon mile of well maintained tracks makes riding here a real horse rider's paradise. In a single day we can ride through steep sided river gorges, pine scented forests and ancient woodlands of oak and chestnut. Clatter through medieval villages unchanged through the centuries, ford or swim in a river and canter along the miles of tracks which cross the Aveyron Plain.

There are many varied trails for riding. A typical day would be to ride for 2-3 hours morning, and afternoon, returning to the gite for tasty lunch. We have day rides where we sit down to a "formal" picnic, by a Moulin or a village green, and some of the more adventurous day rides we pack up saddlebags with sandwiches, and treats, and sit by a river, or a forest picnic table. A favourite is also to ride past beautiful cha-teaux to a local restaurant, where they don't mind muddy riding boots! All the rides involve some lovely canters, and we have a few fun fast gallop fields.

For the jumpers, we have a **CROSS COUNTRY COURSE**, cleverly designed for advanced riders one way, and the less experienced going the other way. There is also a show jumping paddock.

We also have a **TREC** course down in our valley. There are a series of obstacles designed to test the obedience, confidence, courage and balance of the horse and rider! Try the immobility circle, the S bend, opening and shutting the gate, to name but a few.

For the more experienced rider, we run specific **adventure** weeks, where the rides are a bit faster and more challenging, You need to be prepared to try new things, like a bit of competitive horse ball, pony club games, and the longer day rides, and even some camping if the weather allows.

We also run week long **trail rides**, our most popular a fabulous trail through two of the plus belles villages in France, Belcastel and Conques. These involve riding between 20-30km each day, and staying in country gites, hotels, farmhouses, and equestrian centres.

Plus for those that cant get away for long, we do a **mini trail ride** for staying for 3 nights at the luxury gite Griffouliere, this we often do as part of a longer stay here.

At *French Riding Holidays* we are experts in providing holidays for horse riders of all levels. Our horses are surefooted and forward going and we have chosen them with great care to ensure that both novices and experienced riders can find their perfect equine partner.

For details on all the above please contact us at

info@frenchridingholidays.co.uk



We are open all year round!



Our Fabulous Horses

At *French Riding Holidays* we have over 20 fabulous horses to choose from who are the real stars of the show. They are all individual characters who thoroughly enjoy their job....

In our herd we have Thoroughbreds, Anglo Arabs, Selle Francaise, Appaloosas, Spanish, Cremello, Cobs plus various Cross breeds. We have bred many of them ourselves.

Because our horses are not 'trekkers' they are great for experienced riders too as they will all go happily in front or behind, alone or in company. We have enjoyed the company of many professional and competitive riders over the years who have found the horses great fun both to ride and be around.

With our horses ranging in height from 14hh to 16hh we can cater for adults and children.

We do encourage you to be accurate in your description of the abilities of you and your group when you book. This ensures that we have enough staff on duty to ensure you all have great fun and that the right horses are available.

If you weigh over 16 stone/224 lbs/100kg then please speak to us so we can make sure we have a horse available for the time you wish to book.

Please see our reviews on

Trip Advisor French Riding Holidays

We had an absolutely fabulous week at Mas De Clamouze. Words are not enough to describe the experience. We love your horses, company, the rides and the setting. What more we could wish for we cannot imagine. See you again soon. Thomas and Pia from Sweden, July 2015.





Travel To French Riding Holidays

By Air from UK/Ireland

There are various options the most popular are
(Please be advised some of them are seasonal)

To **Rodez** (40 min car transfer)
From Manchester, Dublin and Stansted with Ryanair

To **Toulouse** (2 hour car transfer)
From London Gatwick, Luton and Bristol with Easyjet
From London Heathrow with British Airways
From Stansted, Dublin and Edinburgh with Ryanair

To **Brive** (1 hour 20 min car transfer)
From Stansted with Ryanair

For those outside the UK, most guests fly into Toulouse, where you can connect from Paris, Schipol, Brussels, Munich, Frankfurt.

Upon arrival, you can hire a car, or we can arrange a transfer.

By Car

Sat nav address is Clamouze 12700 Asprieres or 44.536/2.142

By Train (www.sncf.com or www.raileurope.com)

From **Paris Austerlitz** there is a direct overnight train, or during the day multiple trains with an easy change at Brive. From **Toulouse Matabiau** there are multiple direct trains daily. Our local station is **Capdenac Gare** which is 10 minutes away by car with a free transfer.

"Thank you for an amazing holiday. This was my 16th birthday present and it was the best present I could ask for. It wont be the last time with you, I will be back!"

Jessica





Frequently Asked Questions

1. Q. Can I start and finish my holiday to suit myself?
A. Yes, we are very **flexible** and you can arrive and depart on any day for as long or short as you wish.
2. Q. Do you do weekend breaks / long weekends?
A. Yes we do cater for those who want to just have a quick get away but we have to say it is never long enough!
3. Q. Are your holidays suitable for **novice riders**?
A. They certainly are. We pride ourselves on helping those that are novice riders to experience the joys of riding. We do ask that riders can walk trot and canter.
4. Q. Do you have an **upper weight limit**?
No...within reason. We have horse that can carry heavier riders, , but we do need to know in advance to ensure that we have a suitable mount available for you, and we ask out of consideration for our horses that you are accurate!
5. Q. Do you have age restrictions?
A. Age is not a barrier to enjoying a stay at *French Riding Holidays*. Our eldest guest is 84 years young. Children must be 13 years old at the time of their holiday. We generally require previous hacking out experience, but it is best to discuss required experience individually. Drop us an email.
6. Q. I am travelling on my own, would your holidays be suitable for me?
A. We have many single travellers passing through our doors and our set up is such that every one enjoys the socialising aspect of *French Riding Holidays* and become part of a family environment. **We do not charge a single person supplement.**
7. Q. Do you cater for non riders?
A. Yes, we have couples and families where members do not ride and we appreciate that horse riding is not everyone's cup of tea. We welcome **non riders** and they are made to feel part of what *French Riding Holidays* is all about.....fun for all!
8. Q. Do you cater for special dietary needs?
A. We can cater for **vegetarians, vegans, celiac, & other food intolerances**. It is no problem, but please do let us know in advance of your arrival.
9. Q. What do I need to bring?
A. A suitable riding hat and footwear. Depending on the time of year, sun cream, and insect Repellent and swimwear. We provide towels and basic toiletries.
10. Q. How much riding is available and if *I don't* want to ride all day is this ok?
A. We do morning and afternoon rides and day rides. There is as much riding on offer as you want, normally about 5 hours per day but if you don't want to ride at any particular time this is not a problem. You can chill out by the pool or the woodburner. We really are flexible.
11. Q. What will the weather be like on my holiday?
A. We enjoy a long hot summer in Southwest France with blue skies for much of the year. The Spring and Autumn are mild and pleasurable riding is to be enjoyed all year round.



Booking Information

You can pay in £s or euros by Bank transfer.
Guests can arrive on any day and stay as long as you would like.
The price for a 7 night stay is discounted.
Children under 16 and non riders are discounted.
Please contact me for the latest prices.
Group bookings can be discounted.

We also offer a 20% discount for all group bookings from start of Nov to end of Feb excluding Christmas and New year

Prices include:
All Horse Riding
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
All soft drinks, tea, coffee beer & wines
Accommodation

There is **NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** for our guests

Trail Rides and Special offers

Belcastel Trail Ride 7 nights
Adventure week 7 nights
Maleville Rally Ride Easter Sun/Mon/Tues
3 day mini trail
Tournhac Rally Ride
1 day adventure ride 3rd Sunday in June
Mini Trail Ride 5 nights
Camping breaks
Christmas and NY programme

Please enquire for a more detailed itineraries for the above, and always ask as we can customise weeks for groups

We can organise **special celebrations for birthdays!**

Airport Transfer

Payable in cash on arrival per car

From Rodez	60 euros return (1-4 people)
From Toulouse	200 euros return (1-4 people) Earliest Pick up/drop off 9:30am Latest pick up/drop off 17:30 pm
From Brive	110 euros return (1-4 people)

To Book

Please call Amanda on: 00 44 7801944823

Or email: info@frenchridingholidays.co.uk

Don't forget to like our French Riding Holidays facebook page!

Terms & Conditions of Booking

1. Making your booking

When you book we ask you to complete a booking and rider experience form. We ask that you provide full details which truly reflects your personal information and riding ability. This helps us to ensure that you are provided with a suitable horse and have a safe and enjoyable holiday.

2. Payment

In order to secure your booking a non refundable deposit of £300 or 300 euros is required within 10 days of making your provisional booking. We must receive the balance of the cost of your holiday no less than 35 days before your arrival. If making your booking within thirty five days of departure then the full balance will be due immediately.

3. Cancellation

Bookings may be cancelled at any time prior to your arrival date by written notification (email will be accepted). The cancellation date will be taken as the date that written confirmation is received. Cancellation charges are expressed as a percentage of the total holiday price. Cancellation charges are as follows

35 days or less before arrival 100% cancellation charge.

Over 35 days before arrival loss of deposit only.

With suitable notice we always offer you the opportunity to postpone your booking to a new convenient date for both parties.

We are open all year round!

We have a festive fun Christmas and New Year programme.