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FRANCE

Guest Editor
Kate Mosse

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January 2013 | Issue 172

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FRANCOFILE

Explore the rugged world of the Cathars



GETTING THERE

By rail: Clare travelled from London to Carcassonne via Paris with Rail Europe. Tel: 0844 848 4064 www.raileurope.co.uk
 By road: Carcassonne is ten hours from the northern ferry ports.
 By air: See Holiday Planner on page 90.

WALKING TOUR

Clare's walking trip was organised by Inntravel, specialist in self-guided walking holidays (Tel: 01653 617001, www.inntravel.co.uk). Its six-night Castles of the Cathars holiday costs from £745 per person including accommodation, transfers, luggage moves, evening meals and three picnic lunches. Inntravel's route includes sections

of the Sentier Cathare, but not the legs from Axat to Puilaurens, or from Quèribus to Padern, which Clare added.
 Maps: The 1:55 000 Le Sentier Cathare (No 9), published by Rando Editions, shows the whole route. The detailed maps covering Clares walk are IGN 1:25 000, 2348 ET and 2447 OT.

WHERE TO STAY

Hostellerie du Grand Duc 11140 Gincla Tel: (Fr) 4 68 20 55 02 www.host-du-grand-duc.com
 Old-style French hospitality in a tranquil manor house with restaurant. Doubles from 78, breakfast 11, half-board (based on two people) from 84

per person. Menus from 30.
 La Giraudasse 2 Place de la Fontaine 11350 Soulatgø Tel: (Fr) 4 68 45 00 16 www.giraudasse.com
 Chambre d'hôte in a 17th-century mansion in a small but dynamic village. The owners provide meals using local produce (much of it from their garden). Rooms, including breakfast: 54 for one person, 64 for two, 74 for three. Evening meal 25.

Auberge du Vigneron 2 Rue Achille-Mir 11350 Cucugnan Tel: (Fr) 4 68 45 03 00 www.auberge-vigneron.com
 Auberge converted from a wine-maker's house, with a restaurant

terrace giving views of the Château de Quèribus and the mountains. Doubles from 59, breakfast 9, menus from 21.

WHERE TO VISIT

Château de Puilaurens Tel: (Fr) 4 68 20 65 26 www.pays-axat.org
 Open Feb to mid-Nov, admission 4.

Château de Peyreperouse Tel: (Fr) 4 82 53 24 07 www.chateau-peyreperouse.com
 Summer attractions include daily falconry shows and a medieval festival. Open all year, admission 6.

Château de Quèribus Tel: (Fr) 4 68 45 03 69 www.cucugnan.fr
 Open all year, admission 5.50.

TOURIST INFORMATION

Carcassonne tourist office Tel: (Fr) 4 68 10 24 30 www.carcassonne-tourisme.com
 Aude-en-Pyrénées tourist office Tel: (Fr) 4 68 20 07 78 www.aude-pyrenees.fr
 Corbières Sauvages tourist office Tel: (Fr) 4 68 45 69 40 www.corbieres-sauvages.com
 Perpignan tourist office Tel: (Fr) 4 68 66 30 30 www.perpignan-tourisme.com
 Aude tourist board Tel: (Fr) 4 68 11 66 00 www.aude-tourisme.com