

EIGHT DAY PHOTO TOUR ITINERARY

THE MEDIEVAL HILLTOP VILLAGE OF CORDES-SUR-CIEL IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE

**WITH PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS JON DAVISON & KINGSLEY KLAU
PLUS GUEST DSLR FILM MAKER YVAN RABE**

September 12th - 19th 2020



FRIDAY - FRIDAY 11th. ARRIVAL

HOSTELLERIE DU VIEUX CORDES - *your tour base*

Pick up is from Toulouse airport at 12 noon in our mini-van, then it's a 1.5 hours drive to your accommodation at Hostellerie du Vieux Cordes, right in the centre of the medieval village, where we will have a late lunch and settle in. Following your long flight you will probably want to just chill out! After a rest we meet up to introduce the team (Jon and his wife Jude, Kingsley, Yvan, and Oliver and Liza from Vieux Cordes) and explain the tour. Here we can discuss any concerns you may have. Plus we will give you the daily photography and information sheets that give you an idea of what the tour will be covering. After dinner we have a short film/slide show to give you an idea of the area we are visiting.

SATURDAY - SEPT 12th.

CORDES-SUR-CEL - *hilltop 'Bastide' village*

Following breakfast we take a stroll around Cordes to give you the opportunity to get the feel of this amazing place. We will look at the five medieval gates that once surrounded Cordes. We then have lunch at Jon and Jude's home on Rue des Mitons overlooking the Aurosse Valley. This is followed by a special look into the home of violin maker Christian





Urbita. Chistian and his wife Sue have lived in Cordes for 20 years. Christian creates superb hand made violins for some of the worlds most talented musicians.



Later, we have a leisurely stroll on the southern side of the Aurosse valley below to get an overview of Cordes. Then up to the nearby Graine de Sel for an overview of Cordes nestled in the Cerou valley. Over dinner we will be joined by French/English teacher Christophe Lauren, for an entertaining look at all things French! There is the option to join Christophe on one of your free half days to wander with him around the village to practice your French and learn a little of the local customs!



TOP LEFT: *Portail Peint, one of the medieval gates.*
OPPOSITE LEFT: *La Halle & Hostellerie du Vieux Cordes.*
LEFT: *Christian Urbita.* **ABOVE:** *Cordes viewed from La Graine de Sel.*

SUNDAY - SEPT 13th

ST ANTONIN NOBLE VAL / LAGUEPIE

Market town / castle.

Mid morning we drive to the lively market town of St Antonin Noble Val (the setting for the film 'The 100 Foot Journey'). Here we will have time to do some shopping, have a coffee and wander about this bustling and colourful place. There is colour and activity here by the basket full, so some great visual opportunities to be had here! From St Antonin we head back to Cordes for a late lunch, through rolling

farmscapes filled with Canola, Sunflowers and ripening Wheat. We make a short stop at St Martin Laguepie, to shoot the ruins of the 13th century castle destroyed by the Crusader Simon de Montfort, from the bridge and the village. Later in the day we will visit a stone masons workshop nearby Cordes. Then a quick stop at the nearby village of Vedillerie. This gives a great side-on view of Cordes-sur-Ciel, which like the Grain-de-Sel, is even better in the mist. On the way back to Cordes we stop in to visit the small restored Chapel of Saint Lucie, now a private residence.





LEFT: St Martin Laguepie by the River Aveyron. **BOTTOM:** Local stone mason apprentice at work..







LEFT: Photo tour group above the valley mist, viewing Cordes from the road to Vedillerie.

BELOW: The 13th century Chapel of Saint Lucie near Vedillerie.



MONDAY - SEPT 14th

BELCASTEL / NAJAC - *Castles, rivers & bridges.*

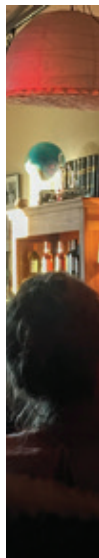
Following breakfast, we head to the stunning medieval village of Belcastel and its 15th century arched bridge over the river Aveyron. We will have a leisurely three hours here, with a picnic lunch by the river. We can wander around this quintessential medieval village for some great shooting positions. We leave Belcastel for a slow drive through some typical Tarn farm-scapes, with rolling hills, lush foliage and typical medieval architecture. Next we drive to Najac to take in some late afternoon light.

This is a very picturesque village with winding cobble streets and lanes, an imposing ruined castle, plus an 11th century abbey. Back in Cordes you may like to explore the many cafes and galleries that are open during the long, warm September evenings. We will introduce you to Valerie and Raphael who run S'Callipyge, a cafe/restaurant that often has live music and is a great place to just 'hang out. If you like you may choose to have dinner here.

BELOW: *Medieval Belcastel by the River Aveyron.*

OPPOSITE: *The medieval village and castle of Najac.*

ABOVE: *Live music at S'Callipyge.*





TUESDAY - SEPT 15th

PENNE, BRUNIQUEL - *Fortified towns*

A relaxed morning, with an optional portrait photo shoot in Vieux Cordes, focusing on natural and studio flash lighting techniques. After lunch we head off to visit two of the regions castles and fortified villages. Firstly the medieval village of Penne, and its haunting craggy ruined castle. Then on to Chateau Bruniquel perched high above the Aveyron river. We follow the 'La Cornish' road to get to Bruniquel for some great views of the Aveyron valley. After returning for dinner at Vieux Cordes we will have an entertaining and informative

tour of the Musee St Gregoire, with Australian artist/explorer/archaeologist W. John Hackwell and his wife Yvonne. Their gallery houses an incredible collection of contemporary paintings and sculpture by renowned Australian Aboriginal artists, including Albert Namatjira. The gallery also has original paintings by Australian narrative painter, Moriss Kennedy, depicting the life of Albi native Jean-François de Lapérouse but viewed from an Australian perspective. Depending on their availability, we may have the opportunity to have an evening apero on the balcony of a resident of Cordes who is a celebrated hair stylist.





OPPOSITE LEFT: *Natural window light and flash portrait session of Annabelle & Mark Shannon, plus Kingsley Klau, taken during our April 2017 tour.*

OPPOSITE RIGHT: *Chateau Bruniquel high above the river Aveyron.*

LEFT: *The precarious ruins of Chateau Penne.*

BELOW: *Musee St Gregoire.*



WEDNESDAY - SEPT 16th
PIGEONNIERS & WINERY

Today we will see many of the unique pigeon houses (pigeonniers) that make up the rural landscape of the Tarn. Pigeons were a source of highly valued meat, fertiliser, plus later on Saltpeter was found, leading to the invention of gunpowder. Up till the 17th century they were considered status symbols for the lords of the land, until the law changed so that every man could cultivate pigeons.

The Tarn area has the most varied examples in Europe. From left to right, we will be visiting Andillac, La Nauze, Rijols, and Le Verdier.

Back to La Vieux Cordes for lunch. You have a free afternoon until 5pm when we will visit 'Chateau de Sours', a premier, award winning organic winery of the Gaillac region. We will have a tour of their beautiful estate, chateau grounds, the vineyard and have the opportunity to sample some of their great wines. We will have an evening picnic here on the lawn near an old pigeonier and salamander pond. There will be time to photograph amid some lovely light here in the early evening.

TOP RIGHT: *Sampling wines at Chateau Sours.*
OVERLEAF: *The cave at Chateau Sours.*









THURSDAY - SEPT 17th

ALBI / AMBIALET / CHATEAU GRANDVAL

After a late breakfast there is a 20 min drive to the beautiful medieval city of Albi 'the Episcopal city' on the river Tarn. Albi was at the centre of the 12th century Cathar heresies, hence 'the Albigensian crusade'. This was a systematic purging of anyone who had opposing views to the ruling Catholic church.

The Pope gave his blessing via an inquisition to the subsequent burning of thousands of peaceful followers of the Cathar movement throughout the Tarn, together with the Aude and Roussillon regions.

We will have a picnic/packed lunch by the river at the foot of the palace walls. From the 11th century bridge (Vieux Pont) you may get a chance to see the huge pigeon eating Catfish!

Mid afternoon we head off to the lovely village of Ambialet followed by the drowned Chateau Grandval.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Inner city Albi at twilight. St Cecille cathedral, and the red brick houses by the river. Typical medieval streets with the dominant cathedral. Panorama of the River Tarn from the Berbie Palace. One of the huge pigeon eating Catfish unique to the river Tarn.









LEFT: Chateau Grandval. **ABOVE;** The river Tarn at Ambalet.

RIGHT: Ambialet Weir is a great location to practice some camera settings such as Depth of Field and Shutter Speed.

FRIDAY - SEPT 18th **INSIDE CORDES**

Today after breakfast we will have a look inside a few of the homes and meet some of the people of Cordes.

We start with the charismatic Jean-Louis Ferran, in charge of the Charles Portal history museum in Cordes and a mine of local knowledge. He has restored his medieval home as it would have looked in the 13th century.

Next we visit Dialogues gallery owner Brigitte Artaut. She has a sumptuous medieval home in the main street Grand rue Raymond VII. If we have time and if the owners are home, we can see one or two more. After lunch we go for a walk with Malagashi film maker Yvan Rabe on how to get the best out of creating movies with your DSLR.





Although Yvan lives in Cordes, he spends much of his time shooting for high-end fashion clients in Paris. He has an easy engaging way with people and his insights into the use of modern cameras for film making is a must.

We will have dinner at the Vieux Cordes.

OPPOSITE: Jean-Louis Frerran's home.

BELOW: Inside Brigitte Artuat's home.

LEFT: Yvan Rabe at work.



SATURDAY - SEPT 19th

DAWN SHOOTS / CAVES / FAREWELL MEAL

It's a 5am start this morning to catch pre-dawn and dawn light over the nearby Moulin Carjac to practice time exposures and painting a scene with torchlight!. Next we go to La Grain de Sel, a hill overlooking Cordes to catch the first rays of dawn. This is the prime location to really view the pyramidal shape of Cordes. Hopefully there will be some mist, and we may even see a balloon or two

passing low over the village! After breakfast, the rest of the day is yours to spend at your leisure, or sleep! Late afternoon we go to La Mailhoulie caves, a vast underground limestone system, used for hundreds of years to mine mill stones. Then its back to Vieux Cordes for our farewell evening meal.

BELOW: *Cordes at dawn from le Graine de Sel.*

OPPOSITE TOP: *Cordes viewed from Moulin Carjac by moonlight. Torchlight has helped light the foliage.*

OPPOSITE LOWER: *La Mailhoulie caves.*





SUNDAY - SEPT 20nd
DEPARTURE TO TOULOUSE

We offer one airport shuttle in the mini van to Toulouse Blagnac airport at a time that is agreeable for everyone. The exact time is to be advised, but generally before booking your ticket liase with us to see what the majority of guests are doing and we will post the time on our facebook page or via an email to you. But as a general rule, try and arrange your departure time for around midday. If your flight is outside these times, early morning or late at night, it may be a good idea to stay overnight in Toulouse. We can arrange

this for you. Cordes-sur-Ciel is a 1hr 15min drive from Toulouse, or 20mins from Albi. There is a train direct to Toulouse from Gare Cordes-Vindrac, which is 5mins from Cordes.

Other nearby stations are Albi and Gaillac, both an easy 20min drive from Cordes.

Bon voyage, the ESP photo tour team.





THE TEAM

Your hosts at ESP Photo Tours are professional photographer Jon Davison and his wife Jude Brazendale, who operate from their home in Cordes-sur-Ciel, together with guest photographer Kingsley Klau, from Rockingham in Western Australia. Yvan Rabe brings DSLR film making to the table on our tours.

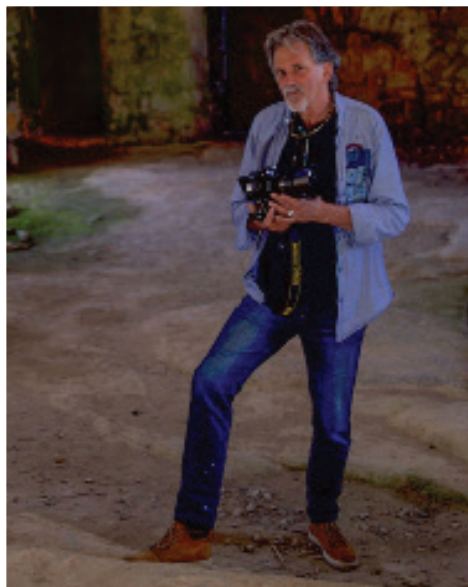
JON DAVISON

Jon (a native Kiwi) has worked as a photographer all his life. He worked as a travel photographer for 20 years, plus has been photographing the aviation industry for an equal amount of time. He has been teaching Photoshop for 10 years, and has produced over 18 of his own books. Jon is passionate about all things photographic.

He lived in New Zealand for 23 years, 27 years in Western Australia, Oxford UK for 17 years, and has now made his home in France! Jon is an enthusiastic trainer and tour leader.

JUDE BRAZENDALE

Jude (oddly enough, also a Kiwi!) has been involved with the arts and related fields, having had her own art gallery in Fremantle for many years. She is passionate about the culture and arts of the Tarn region and its wines! Jude



Above: Jon at Vaour,
by Kingsley.

LEFT: Jude at Mer-
ville, by Jon

ABOVE RIGHT: Kingsley
at Penne, by Jon.

RIGHT: Yvan by Jon.



has also been a teacher of English as a foreign language for 20 years.

KINGSLEY KLAU

Kingsley was born in Ceduna, South Australia and now resides near Perth, Western Australia. In 1972 he joined the Royal Australian Navy, which introduced him to the wonders of travel and photography and has been an on-going passion ever since. Kingsley became an AIPP Accredited Photographer in 2005 and is an extensive teacher, ranging from DSLR to mobile device photography. Kingsley is the Nikon School Instructor in Western Australian, and now travels broadly to further his skills and knowledge.



YVAN RABE

Madagascan born Yvan Rabe is a professional film maker specialising in the fashion and motion picture industries. His clients number among many of the major Parisian salons. Yvan also operates as an editor and is a proponent of the use of modern DSLR cameras for the film industry. Yvan is passionate about food and is an accomplished pianist. We feel privileged to have him on board as part of the ESP team.

SITES

JON'S MAIN SITE: www.eyeinthesky.com.au

ESP PHOTO TOURS: www.eyeinthesky.com.au/esp-photo-tours



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HOSTELLERIE
DU VIEUX CORDES

