



CSG Study Tour - Castles of Gaston Febus:
13th-21st September 2015

Led by Richard Eales

Organised by Pamela Marshall

What is included?

- Richard Eales's guiding and on-board lectures
- Transport to sites as outlined below
- All entrance costs
- Half-board accommodation (including 25cl wine with dinner) for 8 nights in the Pyrenees. [The hotels all have pools.]

Outline Itinerary

Day 1 Sunday 13th

Participants should make their own way to **Bayonne**, where we shall stay in Hotel Le Bayonne (4*) for 2 nights. The group will meet at the hotel that evening.

One could travel to Bayonne by train. Otherwise:

Suggested flight: a Ryanair flight to Biarritz leaves London Stansted at 14.05, arriving 17.05. (For our Irish Colleagues there are cheaply priced connecting flights from Dublin to Stansted at 06.30 or 08.20. I have not checked out other Irish airports, but they may have some as well.) **Arrive** Bayonne via Biarritz airport and make your own way to the hotel by taxi or bus – not too far: it should be possible to share taxis, as there will be quite a few of us.

Day 2 Monday 14th

Whole day in Bayonne: Richard will lead a tour on foot of the key sites including the rebuilt chateau, city walls ranging from Roman to Vauban period and cathedral. This will be followed by some free time for people to make extra visits to museums or whatever they want to do.

Day 3 Tuesday 15th Leave Hotel Le Bayonne

Coach tour of sites in the lower Adour Valley:

- Hastingues – bastide
- Abbey church – Abbaye d'Arthous
- Double-motte castle site of Aspremont (Peyrhorade)
- 10thC abbey church (now parish church) at Sorde L'Abbaye

Arrive at Hotel du Golf (3*) in Salies de Bearn where we shall stay for 4 nights.

Day 4 Wednesday 16th

- Saint Jean Pied-de-Port – fortified town and pilgrimage centre, with added Vauban defences – stands just below the Pass of Roncevalles
- Bidache – Chateau de Gramont
- Labastide Villefranche
- Sauveterre de Bearn – town defences and fortified bridge, though interior of the chateau is closed as too dangerous at present

Day 5 Thursday 17th

- Chateau de Bellocq
- Orthez – fortified bridge, remains of town walls; Chateau Moncade
- Morlanne – bastide and fortified church as well as chateau and museum

Day 6 Friday 18th:

Tour of sites south towards the Pyrenees:

- Navarrenx – fortified town with artillery defences pre-Vauban this time
- Oloron-Ste-Marie – two walled towns, one still with remains of its defences and a well-preserved urban tower; cathedral with significant Romanesque sculpture
- Lescar - cathedral and fortified enclosure just west of Pau

Day 7 Saturday 19th: **Leave Hotel du Golf** – Pau and sites in north-east Bearn

- Pau – chateau and major museum
- Morlaas – remains of Febus's town defences
- Montaner – chateau in the lordship of Bigorre

Arrive at *Grand Hotel de la Grotte (5*)* in Lourdes, which stands at the foot of the castle hill, where we shall stay for 2 nights.

Day 8 Sunday 20th: Tour south and east of Lourdes into the mountainous lordship of Bigorre:

- Beaucens chateau
- Mauvezin – chateau and museum

Day 9 Monday 21st

AM: Lourdes – visit on foot to chateau and museum (open 9.00-12.00)

End of tour.

PM: Participants will make their own way home. There is a train station in Lourdes. It should be possible to organise shared taxis to Lourdes airport, which is 10km outside the town.

Suggested flight: Lourdes to Stansted at 16.35 arrives 17.35

(For our Irish Colleagues there are cheaply priced connecting flights from Stansted to Dublin at 20.10 or 22.05. I have not checked out other Irish airports, but they may have some as well.)

Cost:

Sharing a room: £980 or 1,275€

Single Supplement £120 or 160€

It is possible to pay in sterling by bank transfer or by cheque.

Irish colleagues can make bank transfers in euro if they wish.

For further information or if you wish to join the group, please contact Pamela Marshall – p.marshall752@btinternet.com or Tel: 01526-322708