

SCENIC ROUTE FROM BARCELONA, GIRONA & PERPIGNAN

If you are travelling to La Villa from Barcelona airport/city this scenic route will allow you to make the most of your journey to us rather than just taking less scenic autoroute.

The approximate direct drive time to Mazamet (without stops) from Barcelona (4 hrs); Girona (4 hrs); Perpignan (2 hrs). So you can judge for yourself if you would like to take our suggested scenic route based upon either your arrival time into a regional airport or your departure time from your previous location.

THE ROUTE

You will head from **Barcelona into France** on the main autoroute which is numbered **E15 (AP-7 or A9)** – follow directions to “**Franca**”. If you have an interest in the works of Salvador Dalí, stop off in the last major town before crossing the border, **Figueres**, to visit this [museum](#).

The crossing into France is stunning and on a clear day beautiful views of the snow-capped Pyrenees will be seen on your left. **Continue in the direction of Perpignan**, the first large city over the border in France. When you are passing Perpignan itself, you need to **exit in the direction of the airport and onto the D117** which will skirt around the airport and you will head in the direction of “**Foix**”.

This road takes in some stunning scenery, including three of the most famous “Cathar” chateaux built in the 12th/13th centuries. You can follow the brown tourist signs if you would like to visit one of these (*the most accessible being [Puilaurens](#) you will see this signposted to your left as you enter*



the village of “Lapradelle”). You will eventually come to a town of **Quillan** where you need to **turn right onto the D118 towards Carcassonne** (*initially signposted Limoux*) – this is the road that will take you all the way to Mazamet.

Depending on the time of day (*you are now approximately 2 hours from Mazamet*) you may want to visit the famed **Rennes le Chateau** (*made famous in Dan Brown’s La Da Vinci Code*). **Leave the D118 taking the D52 on your right** as you reach the village of **Couiza**. Alternatively, continue onto **Limoux** which is famous for its production of Blquette de Limoux. You will see the

main car park on your right as you approach the town and there is a lovely square with bistros & bars just a short walk away. (*if of interest, we can arrange a tasting for you at the family-owned vineyard [J Laurens](#) who supply us with Blanquette*).

From Limoux continue in the direction of Carcassonne. Although the D118 continues onto Mazamet, as you approach Carcassonne (*heading downwards on a steep hill*) **you will need to turn left at the traffic lights**. Shortly afterwards, you will pass Carcassonne airport, you are approximately 45 mins from Mazamet and you can then follow the [directions](#) from our website

Whilst we do not have any specific recommendations for a lunch stop, there will be a number of places to eat along this route, so judge where you will be and remember the typical French lunch-service is Noon until 2pm. Carcassonne itself is best taken as a day or half day visit when staying with us rather than trying to squeeze it in on route.

