



Serre Chevalier, French Alps

Monday 24th June - Friday 28th June 2019

Learn Bridge with the Stockens in a stunning setting:
4-day beginner course with your hosts, Dinah and Claudia

Prices per person: £836 (twin occupancy) £980 (single occupancy) including:

4 nights' stay in the charming Chalet les Marmottes

Full board every day including:

- afternoon tea with freshly made cake
- aperitif every evening
- four-course dinner with unlimited wine

2 afternoon guided walks (*inc. transport and lunch*) with local mountain guide

Transfers from Turin Airport (*afternoon BA flight only*)

All bridge tuition and course notes

Very special bridge holidays

Why learn Bridge?

Bridge is the most popular card game in the world and played by one in fifteen people in the UK alone. A highly stimulating and hugely addictive game, bridge is currently enjoying a huge resurgence of popularity. The benefits for children include improving skills in numeracy, memory and concentration; and for adults include mental stimulation helping to keep the brain active and to stave off degenerative diseases. It can be enjoyed at many levels from a social game amongst friends right up to serious competition level. As well as the intellectual and competitive elements, the social side of bridge cannot be underestimated. Many lifelong friends are formed at the bridge table!



Beginner Bridge with Dinah and Claudia

Mother and daughter, Dinah and Claudia Stocken will be teaching the group together meaning that with a small group (*between 4 and 16 people*), you will be able to advance quickly and should be able to complete the full beginner course during your stay. Both Dinah and Claudia have many years' experience of playing and teaching bridge, particularly to beginners, so their methods are ideal for those who are rusty or starting from scratch. There will be 6 lessons during the stay, taking place every day in the morning (*10am - 12.30pm*) and in the afternoon (*5pm - 7.30pm*). There will also be an optional lesson on the last morning (*depending on numbers*).



'It's been a truly wonderful experience. The bridge tuition has far exceeded my expectations and the team have been fantastic.' Clare Dooley, June '18

'Excellent course and practice. Confidence boosting - the perfect platform to get started. I have been left full of enthusiasm to 'get going' when I get home.' Caroline Steel, June '18

Serre Chevalier

Serre Chevalier is the collective name for several traditional villages in the Guisane valley, stretching from the magnificent 12th century walled town of Briançon to the breathtaking Col du Lautaret with its glacial views.



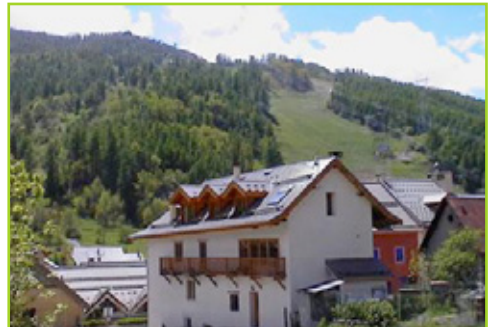
Chantemerle is one of these villages surrounded by the outstanding rugged beauty of the southern French Alps and just 10 miles from the Italian border. This region has spectacular mountain scenery with a mediterranean climate, and is the sunniest in France, with 300 days of sunshine per year on average. Serre Chevalier has to be France's best kept secret!



Chalet les Marmottes

Chalet les Marmottes, situated in the centre of the old part of Chantemerle village, is an old French farmhouse, lovingly restored by Denis and Karin Lucas to provide accommodation for up to 16 people. The chalet is typically alpine with exposed beams throughout and the bedrooms all have ensuite facilities.

The living room with its log fire is full of character and the separate dining area on the first floor has a large south-facing balcony with fabulous mountain views. There is also a private garden with decked terrace - perfect for well-earned aperitifs after bridge and walking.



Food

Karin is an excellent chef and makes delicious home-cooked food with no pretensions, cleverly mixing traditional French and British cuisine. She is also a wonderful warm-hearted hostess where nothing is too much trouble and she will do the maximum to ensure you have an excellent stay.

MENU at CHALET LES MARMOTTES

*Grilled goats cheese with paprika served on a slice of pear with a fresh salad
Country salad with bacon, croutons and poached egg
Red and yellow peppers baked with feta and fresh herbs*

*Guinea fowl roasted with thyme served with a selection of fresh vegetables
Grilled salmon with fresh ginger and soya, served with local new potatoes
Slow cooked lamb with seasonal vegetables*

Cheeseboard

*Vanilla terrine with blackberry coulis
French apple tart
Mixed fruit crumble*



Please Note

This is a sample menu and will vary according to the season and availability of produce. Dinner will be a fixed menu and accompanied by an unlimited quantity of good house wine. Lunch will be in the form of a picnic. Any special diets can be catered for.

Accommodation

In the chalet itself, there are five comfortable bedrooms on two floors, all individually decorated in a chalet-style with wooden floors, lovely mountain views and en-suite bathrooms. There are also three additional and more spacious apartments (two in the same building and one just adjacent) with their own separate entrances.

Please note that there is no lift and the dining room is on the first floor. We can supply additional details of rooms and bathrooms on request. The rooms will be available from 4pm on the day of arrival, and need to be vacated by 10am on the day of departure.



Guided Walks with Mike Rollins

The mountains in Serre Chevalier are absolutely spectacular in June with the wild flowers at their best and the snow-capped peaks contrasting with the azure blue skies. Mike is a fully qualified hiking and trekking guide and both our summer and winter walking guests have thoroughly enjoyed excursions with him. Having lived nearby for over 25 years, he is extremely knowledgeable about the local history, flora, fauna, and mountain geology, taking you off the beaten track to see nature first-hand.



There will be two afternoon walks scheduled during your stay with the third afternoon free to explore. The walks are optional and will be tailored to the group, but will be easy and at a gentle pace. Mike will provide a delicious picnic packed full of local and seasonal produce. Transport and lunch are included.

Other Things to Do

With a packed programme of bridge and walking, you will have plenty to keep you busy, but here are a few other options:

The Old Town of Briancon

The old fortified town of Briancon is the highest town in Europe at 1326m and is only 10 minutes drive away. Take in its fascinating history, cobble streets, interesting shops and wonderful views from the ramparts.



Les Grands Bains, Monetier

Relax in one of Europe's largest thermal baths with outdoor and indoor pools giving you a wonderful view of Monetier's glittering glacier.



Rafting

Try white water rafting down the River Guisane, just minutes from the chalet.

Cycling

Serre Chevalier is a paradise for cyclists, whether on a road or mountain bike. If all this sounds like too much work, hire an electric bike and you can tackle any hill without even breaking into a sweat. Contact us for full details.

'I really enjoyed myself at Serre Chevalier and found the bridge lessons very helpful. I realise that I probably never really learnt the game properly, or if I did, I had certainly forgotten all the important rules about bidding, leading etc and I am very pleased that I came to Chantemerle to learn in such beautiful and relaxed surroundings. I shall definitely go on another bridge holiday.' Charlotte Sumption, June '18

'I loved my stay at Serre Chevalier particularly the walks with Mike and the very good bridge lessons. I hope to treat myself to another bridge holiday.' Mary Leslie, June '18

Travel Details

By Air:

Turin airport in Italy is the nearest airport, with a transfer time of 1 hour 45 minutes. The afternoon British Airways flight from London Gatwick has good timings (*arrives Turin 15.55, leaves Turin 17.25*) and we will include airport transfers for anyone on this flight. Alternatively Ryanair fly to Turin from London Stansted and we can organise transfers from 45€ per person each way, depending on the number of people travelling. Otherwise there is a good choice of car hire companies for self drive from the airport. Although Grenoble airport seems closer, the transfer time is longer (*approx 2.5 - 3 hours*).

By Train

There are scheduled services using Eurostar from St Pancras, London to Paris (*Gare du Nord*) and then a direct TGV train from Paris, (*Gare de Lyon*) to Oulx in Italy. At Oulx there is a transfer coach to Chantemerle (*5 minutes walk from the chalet*) taking about 50 minutes. We can organise a pick-up from the bus stop or train station on request. There is also an overnight sleeper train direct from Paris to Briancon.




By Car

After crossing the Channel by Eurotunnel or by ferry, Serre Chevalier can be reached in approximately 10 hours, via Grenoble and the Col du Lautaret.

Extending your stay

Four days will not seem long enough in this beautiful area, so why not extend your stay in the chalet? Alternatively, you could visit Turin, a beautiful city with elegant tree-lined boulevards, palaces, museums and extensive shopping possibilities.



PRICES <i>(NB flight not included)</i>	All rooms 
Twin occupancy <i>(per person)</i>	£836
Single occupancy	£980



How to Book...

To book your holiday, please fill out and submit the on-line booking form (contact us for the link or see the Serre Chevalier holiday page of our website) together with the deposit of £150 per person by bank transfer or cheque - see below or the booking form for payment details. Alternatively we can email or send a booking form to you to print out and fill in. The full payment will be due by March 31st 2019. Please see our website for Terms and Conditions or we can email them to you.

Payment

- where possible an on-line transfer is preferable for a speedy transaction that is easy to track.

On-line Transfer:

Account name: 'Stockens Ltd' Account Number: 27452468 Sort Code: 30-11-75

Please quote 'Serre Che 19' or your invoice number if you have one

Cheque:

Please make cheques payable to 'Stockens Ltd'

Financial Protection

Your money paid to us is fully protected against the insolvency of StockenBridge Breaks, in compliance with the Package Travel Regulations 1992. In this unlikely event, you will receive a full refund of your money.

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