Lozère French department is the least inhabited department. Nature is at the forefront with the National Park of Cevennes, located at 80% in Lozère. It includes both Gorges du Tarn and Gorges de la Jonte, together with karstic and granite natural landscapes in Lozère Mount. This environment is renowned for the quality of its landscapes and it offers a good quality of life for the inhabitants living on the National Park and its surroundings. Thanks to those wide-open lands, transhumance activities has been developed in the territory by many farmers, offering consequently a good quality of products. Their work is often rewarded and is a way to promote and galvanize the territory.

7:45 Departure from Clermont (Ecole Nationale Supérieure d’Architecture)

10:00-11:15 Visit to BienManger.com, a bio food platform in La Canourgue
In the east of Lozère department, a local initiative has been created to promote local farmers products online. Located in La Canourgue, this initiative is perfectly well thought as farmers are numerous. Selling local farmers products online is really helpful for them, especially in this new e-consumption society. It is a new challenge for them to make profit more easily.

11:15-12:45 Through Causse Méjean and Prjevalski horses
Along the road to the next stop, we will have a look at Causse Méjean and Causse de Sauveterre. The Causse Méjean is the land of Prjevalski horses. This endangered horse breed, coming from Mongolia, live now safely in the Causse Méjean thanks to the close environment conditions. We will have a short stop and try to see them.

12:45-14:45 Lunch in Le Fédou, a cheese diary shop (Hyelzas)
We will have lunch in a cheese diary shop directed for many years by the Pratlong family. While tasting their cheeses, we will discuss about the organoleptic qualities of their cheeses and pasture. The aim of this project was also to help the local economy in the village. We will also discover the history of the family and their projects with a young farmer, and you are warmly invited to exchange with her.

15:35-16:20 Pierre Plate Peak (Florac)
Close to Florac - both subprefecture of Lozère and Cevennes National Park Headquarters-, the Pierre Plate Peak offers a magnificent view on the Tarn valley: karstic Lozère Mount, granite lands and the karsitic Cevennes landscape. This diversity of the territory has led to different kind of agropastoral methods. We will meet both UNESCO and Cevennes National Park representative members. They will explain the actions of the National Park and of UNESCO.

17:00-18:00 Wine terraces in Ispagnac
The village of Ispagnac is located in a valley named “the Garden of Lozère French department” This valley contains many fruit trees and lots of granite, limestone and schist rocks. Wine terraces have made the beauty of this place. You will taste some of Sylvain Gachet’s wines and walk through his wine terraces.

18.00 – 19.00 Farm Les Boissets and contemporary art exhibition
If time allows us, we will discover architectural exhibitions made by Artelozera, a community of artists who promote contemporary art through Lozère. The agropastoral farm Boissets has a typical Caussenard architecture and has been occupied by three families in the past. There are still dwelling places, barns, sheepfolds, seed storage place, bread oven, wheat threshing places. The farm now offers local products sale, visit tours and exhibitions.

19:00-19:30 Trip to Mende through cultural landscape of Aubrac

Lunch contact: « Le Fédou » (Hyelzas, 48150 Hures-la-Parade – +33(0) 4 66 45 66 74)
Guide in charge of the trip: +33 (0)6 48 28 66 70
Causses and Gorges du Tarn: Heritage, Quality products and local...