Coeur de Lion: *Arrival, Parking, Settling in*

This is the one document you'll need to have with you (on your smart phone or pad) when you land. All other important documents available on the web.

Most guests fly into Toulouse, so we'll begin there—but, except for the first section below, the rest of this information applies to everyone.

Driving from Toulouse airport:

Note: You'll need Euros for some of the toll roads. (Get them from an ATM at the airport). Some tollbooths may accept debit/credit cards (which you should have cleared with your bank/credit card company before you left), but some won't.

If you are entering a tollbooth and do not yet have a "ticket", you will push a button and the booth will dispense one. When you exit the toll road, you will insert your ticket, after which you will pay with coins or bills. There are no people in the booths. If you need assistance, you can find a button to push and a live person will come on the speaker and help you. They often know English. They are patient.

Basic groceries and supplies before your arrive:

You could stop at the Carrefour supermarket in Cahors to buy anything you may need for your first night/morning at the house. But, unless you feel it necessary to sleep in very late Sunday morning, I recommend you do your main shopping in Limogne on Sunday. You could have Penni deliver a delicious meal for you that first (Saturday) evening at the house.

Once at the house, you can assess what you may need and head to the Limogne outdoor market on Sunday morning (a short, beautiful drive, a great 60 minute bicycle ride, only a little hilly towards the end) and pick breads, cheeses, fruits and vegetables, fresh fish, roast chicken, paella, olives, eggs, salamis, condiments, pastries, and many other goodies. There's also a great butchery next to the outdoor market, as well as a small indoor store for basic sundries. Up the main street, at the edge of town is a larger supermarket-- this will have all the basics you may need, like oils for cooking, or coffee, or dish soap, laundry detergent, and various other household goods, etc., whatever you found missing at the house. But, remember, the indoor and outdoor shops on Sunday ***close around noon****, so give yourself time.*

If you arrive in Cahors a day early and spend Friday night in Cahors, you can visit the great Cahors outdoor market on Saturday morning (also repeated on Wednesday if you miss it), as well as the indoor market (great wine selections) and shops abutting the market square. And the large Carrefour supermarche undoubtedly has anything you couldn't find elsewhere.

Don't forget to bring shopping bags; shops do not provide them. There are usually a bunch in the bench by our front door. Also, when shopping at any large store or supermarket, you'll need 50 c. or one euro coin to 'unlock' the shopping cart—which you'll get back on return.

Arriving at the Village:

If you don't mind adding 15 minutes to your drive, set your GPS to take you to the North side of the river (from Vers to Bouzies to Tour de Faure) –it's a stunning drive. At the roundabout in Tour de Faure, bear right and cross the one-lane bridge and drive up the hill toward the village.

If your GPS takes you to the South side of the river, you will arrive at the top of the village. Stay to the right, on the main road (don't enter the village proper) and drive down all the way past the village (the village will be on your left), down to the first big public parking lot on the right (by the way, this lot is also the place where you will be recycling bottles and glass), then turn around and ***follow the photos below.*** If you've arrived from the North side of the river (the longer route above), you'll cross the bridge from Tour de Faure and drive up towards the village, passing the large public parking lots (one on right, the other on the left) & ***follow the photos below.***

(Whichever way you arrive, the following directions/photos will take you from those large public parking lots below the village, first to the house to unload your belongings, then back around to the main road and down to the [hidden] resident's parking lot.)

Starting from the near the large public parking lots below the village, you'll see these signs in this order as you wind up the hill.

Get ready for a right turn....

....bear right here. (See the red 'minus' sign, it's a 'do not enter' sign, but you will enter here!) You cannot yet see the Ancient Gate around the corner, but this is the right place to enter.
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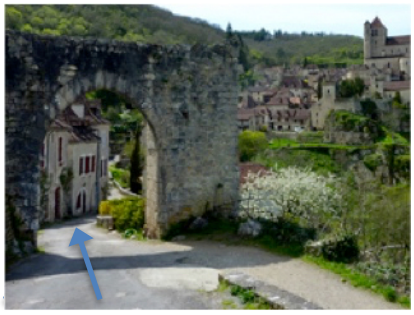
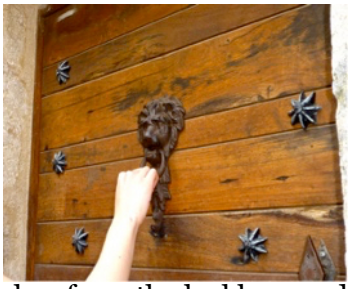


The Ancient Gate will come into view. Go slowly through the Gate, careful of wide-eyed visitors. You are looking for the 4th house on the right (with a little lion's head sign hanging down and a small statue of woman on the window sill)



You'll drive up to the house, stop the car, get the key from the lockbox, and quickly unload.

FINDING THE KEY

The key to Coeur de Lion is in a lockbox on the right (downhill) side of the house. For the combination, ***please contact me*** before you leave for France.

To close the box it must also be set to that combination.

Please, always leave the key in the box when you leave the house, in case of emergencies, etc.

Unloading the Car:

The village street is single lane, and there may be lots of pedestrians. Drive carefully up to the house, park, get the key from the lockbox, open the front door and unload your baggage and groceries. Cars exiting will wait for you to unload and should allow you to drive forward and/or back into a spot and turn around.

Remember, after unloading, the best way to turn around is either to back into an empty parking space and turn around or drive uphill and find a space to back in and turn around. You may want someone outside the car to guide you as back around, as the street is very narrow and the stone walls are very sharp. (This may be your first adventure! Take your time, relax.) If necessary (not generally approved because of the many pedestrians), you could drive uphill slowly out of the village, and then drive back down on main road on the side of the village. The alternative is to park in the resident parking lot and cart your luggage and groceries up some steps and a couple hundred yards up to the house.

Parking: ***(Remember, parking is not allowed within the village proper)*** These are directions from the house after you've turned around and are getting back on the main road. (If driving up from below the village without going to the house, start with the 4th photo below.)

Leaving through the Gate.

Take Left onto main road.

Drive downhill to red sign.

Turn left at sign (right if coming from below village)

(A close-up of sign where you turn.)

At fork, turn left, follow "Acces Village" sign

Go left past the Spider Web gate.

At this fork, bear right.

Find a place to park.

Walk to the corner of the parking lot.

Climb stairs.

Walk past mailboxes.

Walk through the Medieval Gate and, in a couple hundred yards on your right, voila! Bienvenue.

Recycling—very important:

The bins for recycling (paper and plastic only) and garbage are near the Ancient Gate.

The large green bin for recycling bottles and glass is in the lower parking lot on the right.

Important Basic Information:

The Essential Guest Information binder at the house has more complete information on the operation of the appliances, how to take care of problems that may arise, emergency phone numbers, names of neighbors and shopkeepers, etc. etc. ***Please glance through the Essential Guest Information pdf*** (on the website) before you leave, and refer to it once you've arrived at the house. No need to print it out.

Arrival time is 4 p.m. or later. (After dark, you'll need your smartphone's flashlight.)
Departure time is 10 a.m.

The ***internet code*** (all CAPS, no spaces) is 6974 1F76 9FCA 4C13 E76A 5AFE A2

The ***lock box code*** is (contact me for the code). Set it at that number to close it too. ***Always put the key back*** in the lock box after use; it may be needed for an emergency or otherwise.

The ***house phone number*** is *011 33 565 23 50 40. If called from within region —05 65 23 50 40. Outgoing calls to the U.S. from the house are free—dial 00 1 + area code + number*

We get occasional ***ant*** invasions, usually around the front or back doors—there's spray under the kitchen sink, but a rag with vinegar is better and safer. Arachnophobes are safe: we do see ***spider*** webs (they get spun quickly) but we rarely see an actual spider.

Last summer a ***bat*** flew in the window—we did our research. These are **NOT** the rabies-carrying American bats. In fact, these bats are ***protected by law***. They eat mosquitoes, they have incredible sonar, they will not touch you. They will eventually fly back out of open windows, faster if you darken the room. Or just ignore them.

In France***, electricity*** is 220-240 volts (in America it is 110 volts). Do not use American appliances unless they are rated up to 240 volts (computers usually are). You will also need a plug adapter since the French outlets are different.

The ***Post Office*** is towards the top of the village—open 9-12 weekdays, except Wednesdays.

The ***ATM*** is located in a small stone building at the top of the village on the main road.

Neighbors

Sylvie Zade-Routier lives about three houses from (inside) the medieval gate, on the left. A fascinating person, she spends the off-season in Spain, and she speaks English fluently.
Ann Lokey lives about four houses from the Ancient gate, on the left. She spends half the season in Seattle, but do find her and say hello in April, May, September, and October.
Francis Vinel lives about five houses from the gate on the left– he had a stroke many years ago and does not speak well, but is very friendly, and you'll often find him walking the street.
Marie-Francoise and Jean-Pierre Grenier live in the gorgeous La Pelissaria on the right, two houses from the gate. Lovely, friendly, worldly people—Jean-Pierre speaks English.
Finn Foens, Martine Tulet and teenaged daughter MaryLou are neighbors in first house on left from the medieval gate. Lovely folks.
Jackie and Pierre-Yves drive the village maintenance truck and take care of many of the public chores. They do not speak English, but they are friendly and helpful souls.

Useful numbers *From the USA, dial 011 33, then the numbers below but with no 0.*

Bicycle rental: **06 84 15 67 70 (Maxime is the helpful owner)**

Canoe trips and spelunking: **05 65 24 21 01 (Kalapca Adventure Company)**

Penni, for prepared meals: **05 65 22 39 61**

Roland, for cleaning issues: (office) **09 61 32 11 25**, (cell/mobile) **06 12 30 10 12**

Taxi/Livery Service: (office) **05 65 40 69 81** (mobile) **06 03 15 41 67 (Philippe)**

Pech Merle (prehistoric caves-- reservations) **05 65 31 27 05**

Chateau Cenevieres: **05 65 31 27 33**

Tourism Office**: 05 65 31 31 31**

PROXI market, across the bidge and to the left—walkable. (It's kind of a Fench 'convenience' store, with lots of stuff, including fresh fruits and vegetables and, of course, baguettes and wine.) Open every day except lunch: **05 65 30 22 26**

Find outdoor markets (search Lot Department) **www.marketsinfrance.com/**

Spending time in Cahors:

Cahors is a lovely little city, with some excellent shops, cafes, and markets. ***If you arrive on Friday***, you may want to stay at the Hotel Chartreuse, a very nice, relatively inexpensive, and perfectly located hotel on the river just a short walking distance to downtown.

The ***fabulous Saturday market*** is open from about 9 until 12 noon, and it is repeated on Wednesday. After you cross the bridge over the River Lot), you should be on Rue de Gambetta. The open market is off the main route, back in the neighborhood a couple of blocks, on the right side of the Rue de Gambetta. Walk from the hotel, or park in one of the public lots—"Amphitheater" on the left.

If spending extra time in, or returning later to, Cahors, a visit to ***Pont Valentre*** is a must**-- the best-preserved fortified Medieval bridge in existence**. You can walk to the bridge from the city center (or the hotel), a lovely 20 minute stroll along the river. By car, from the market, drive back down the Rue de Gambetta toward the River. Before the bridge, turn Right from the roundabout onto the road along the river. There is sometimes a Saturday brocante market on this road on the right nearby: **L'ancien a Valentre**. It consists of stalls both inside and outside the Municipal Hall. Amazing stuff.

If you are in the city center between 12 and 2 and if you are hungry, find a nice restaurant nearby for lunch. The restaurant Cuisine Cote Sud has been recommended as "the best place for lunch" in Cahors. Le Marché is a little fancier, and also highly recommended. There are many other choices too. Or you can buy some delicious sandwiches at one of the sandwich shops on the main street (there is one towards the roundabout) and take them to Pont Valentre for a little picnic outing. There are benches and grass to sit on.

After lunch, you might enjoy visiting the **Tourist Information Bureau** which will be on the left as you drive uphill on Rue de Gambetta. It is excellent. Or go into the wine bar next door ("Wine Malbec" I think is the name) and taste Malbecs. If this is your first Saturday, leave Cahors by about 3:30 to get to St Cirq Lapopie by 4:00 PM. It's a 25-35 minute drive (depending on whether you drive like the French or the Americans).

Please read through the ***Essential Guest Information*** *pdf (and refer to it often) on the website for all the essential information on living in the house, use of appliances, necessary tasks, and the final checklist for getting ready to leave.*