


# WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPROVE YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY SKILLS ... IN THE OCCITANIE REGION OF SOUTHERN FRANCE?



Then join us on a photo tour to Cordes-sur-Ciel, just an hour north of Toulouse, with professional photographer Jon Davison.



A photograph of two women sitting on a grassy hill, looking out over a village built on a hillside at sunset. The woman in the foreground is wearing a colorful, patterned dress and has her back to the camera. The woman behind her is also wearing a patterned dress and is looking towards the village. The village is built on a hillside, with a large stone building, possibly a castle or church, at the top. The sky is a mix of orange and blue, indicating sunset. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

**....NOT GETTING  
THE RESULTS YOU  
WANT WITH YOUR  
CAMERA?**

**..... DO YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE  
ABOUT THE CRAFT OF PHOTOGRAPHY?**

**CORDES-SUR-CIEL** - *Treasure of gothic architecture*

**IMAGINE SPENDING A WEEK IN THE SOUTH  
OF FRANCE WITH TWO PROFESSIONAL  
PHOTOGRAPHERS!**

Join professional photographer Jon Davison and his wife Jude, on one of their small group photo-tours. During the tour, centred in the stunning hill-top village of Cordes-sur-Ciel, Jon will help you gain that all important 'photographers eye'. This fun and informative tour will offer you the chance to shoot many of the historic villages and landscapes of this stunning region - the heart of Cathar country.



**THE CATHEDRAL CITY OF ALBI AND THE HILL TOP VILLAGE OF CORDES-SUR-CIEL  
ARE TWO LITTLE KNOWN ABSOLUTE TREASURES OF FRANCE.**

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**ALBI** - The episcopal city

Experience vineyards, sunflower fields, medieval villages, ruined castles and fortifications, soaring spires, gastronomical delights, charming pigeonniers, rolling green hills, rugged valleys, the Cathar heresy trail, Bastide towns and much more. Occitanie, in particular the Tarn region, has a wealth of photographic opportunities. Let Jon and Jude introduce you this spectacular place.



## **THE TOUR** - *includes all your accommodation, meals and transport*

Our fun and informative 7 day photographic tours will offer you expert photographic tuition while experiencing some of the sights of the historic region of Occitanie in southern France. It does not really matter on what level your photography is. You will receive All theory and tuition, including Photoshop will be provided by Jon. Jude will give you the low-down on the local food, wines, art history and insights into the cultural fabric of the area. Tuition includes course notes, daily handouts and assignments. Illustrated PDF downloadable documents will be available from the tour website. As well as daylight photo shoots, we will also cover dawn, sunset, dusk and night shoots, with critiques and Photoshop tuition in the evening or rainy days.

The tours will incorporate the following elements as part of our daily activities:

### **THE CRAFT**

- Getting to grips with composition
- Learning about colour
- Getting to know your camera (inc aperture, shutter speeds, DoF and other controls)
- Post production / editing
- Sunrise and sunset shoots
- Night time shoots (star trails)
- Making a time-lapse sequence
- Shooting in rain / grey days
- Architecture
- Landscapes
- Time-exposures

- Tripods, shutter releases and more.

### **POST PRODUCTION / EDITING**

- Adobe Photoshop tuition
- Filing, folder management, saving, opening files, layers.
- Formats; RAW, jpeg, TIFF, png etc.
- HDR, optimising your images.

### **ACCOMMODATION & MEALS**

Your accommodation will be at the spacious and beautiful La Borie Grande, a ten minute drive from Cordes. Two choices of rooms are available here.

- **Seven rooms** with en-suite
- **Three rooms** with shared bathroom
- All breakfasts, lunches (inc packed lunches during the daily sorties) evening meals and wine are included.
- Transport to and from La Borie for all the shoot locations, meetings, outings etc during the course is provided. Includes daily on-board nibbles and bottled water.

**Course fee per person for the week is €2,950.00 inclusive of all the above (€2,000.00 for a non photographer).**

*Price does not include airfares to Toulouse, and mandatory travel insurance or personal purchases. A 50% deposit is required to secure your place as spaces are limited.*

*See our Terms & Conditions;*

**[www.eyeinthesky.com.au/esp-photo-tours/](http://www.eyeinthesky.com.au/esp-photo-tours/)**

**THE PRECARIOUSLY PERCHED  
THIRTEENTH CENTURY CASTLE  
OF PENNE.**



## **SUBJECT SELECTION**

- Castles and fortified towns/villages
- Pigeonniers • Wineries • Art galleries
- Landscapes • Sunflowers/Lavender fields (season dependant) • Farmscapes • Portraits
- Ruins • Atmospheric changes • Flora & fauna • Cuisine setups, cafes, people
- Rivers • Cathar locations. • Urban scapes
- Citie,villages and many more.

## **SHOOT LOCATIONS**

The locations will be a mixture of daytime, twilight, night, sunrise and sunset shoots;

### **Varen**

Twilight - medieval village & castle, restaurant.

### **St Antonin Noble Val**

Day - Market town, river Aveyron.

### **Bruniquel**

Dusk - Fortified medieval town.

### **Puycelci**

Dawn - Fortified medieval town.

### **Penne**

Sunset - ruined castle.

### **Cordes-sur-Ciel**

Fortified medieval town.

### **Vedillerie, Tonnac, Sarmases, Les Cabannes**

All - Views of Cordes.

### **Albi**

Sunset/twilight - Episcopal medieval city.

### **Castlenau de Levis**

Night - ruined castle.

### **Chateau Grandval**

Drowned 15th century chateau - afternoon

### **La Borie Grande**

Sunrise, dusk, night - Home!

### **Najac**

Day / sunset - Fortified medieval town.

### **Belcastel**

Day - Medieval village, castle, bridge, river Aveyron.

### **Andillac**

Dusk/night - wineries, pigeonniers.

We will be visiting 'Chateau de Saur's', an award winning organic winery in the Gaillac region. They will offer us a tour of the vineyards and their wine making process. As well being able to taste their great wines, we will also have a picnic here in the late afternoon, so some great lighting opportunities!

### **Ambialet**

Day - ruined castle, river crossing.



### **Andillac, Chateau Cazelles, Cordes, Le Verdier**

Pigeonniers.

### **Chateau-musee du Cayla**

The museum-home of poet Maurice de Guerin.



## WHAT EQUIPMENT TO BRING

Ideally a DSLR camera is preferable in order to get the best from some of the locations we will be visiting. But if you don't then your smart phone, tablet etc will suffice as this course is primarily about learning to see, so what camera you have is secondary. If you have a DSLR camera body, one or two lenses will be fine.

1. A wide angle lens (fixed focus or zoom) somewhere in the range of 14 to 28mm.
2. A telephoto lens (fixed or zoom) within the range of 200 to 300mm. That is it! you don't need any more but feel free to bring what you like.



If you can't bring the subject closer to you, or push it away from you with these two lenses, then it's not worth shooting (for this course

anyway). Lenses outside these are generally considered specialist lenses for wildlife, landscape etc. And you don't really want to be carrying a lot of unnecessary equipment around, not that it may get stolen, you will just find it hard going.

- Laptop computer if you have one.
- Adobe Photoshop. *(If you don't have the program and you wish to, after seeing what Jon can do with them! then we will show you how to subscribe to Adobe and download the app whilst you are here).*
- Travel tripod (just large enough to hold your camera) for evening shoots, time lapses etc.
- Cable release or digital shutter controller.
- Memory cards! (32 or 64Gb).

## WHAT TO WEAR

As we will be spending most of our time in medieval towns and villages with cobble-stone streets and steep hills, good walking shoes are a **MUST!** Keep the high-heels for the evenings! It does not get too cold, but a packable rain coat or jacket would be advisable. May day temps are around 20+C.

Casual, comfortable clothing is all you will need, but you may wish to dress up for dinner at La Borie Grande.

Parking is an issue in many of these small villages, so we may have to walk to where the action is. But at the very most, you will only need to walk about two hundred metres.

While we are not going to be scaling mountains, a reasonable level of fitness is preferable.

Wheelchar access is more-or-less unheard of in

## La Borie Grande - Campes

Your accommodation is at the lovely La Borie Grande in the nearby hamlet of Campes, is where your daily breakfast, evening meals and packed lunches for the duration of the tour will be prepared. It's also where we will be holding our photo critique evenings and Photoshop tutorials. La Borie can accommodate up to 20 people, so there is plenty of room to spread out and make yourself at home.

La Borie has an outdoor pool, tennis court, screening room, two acres of landscape grounds, a huge converted barn that is now a painting and training workshop/art studios, kitchen and theatre facilities. Visible from the rooms and garden of La Borie Grande is the medieval village of Cordes-sur-Ciel, the largest and best-preserved of the 13th Century bastide towns (and Jon and Jude's home).

Jon and Jude, plus your host Tim (and Lucy) at La Borie Grande, will be on hand to make your stay as comfortable as possible.





**.....RUINED  
CASTLES,  
PIGEONNIERS,  
CHATEAUX  
AND FORTIFIED  
TOWNS ARE  
TO BE FOUND  
THROUGHOUT  
THE TARN  
REGION .....**

**St Martin Laguipie**

**.....OCCITANIE HAS  
THE GREATEST  
NUMBER OF  
PIGEONNIERS IN  
FRANCE.**



**Chateau Cazelles pigeonier,  
near Cordes**



**La Nauze pigeonier,  
near Brens**



**Pigeonnier at Le Verdier**



The Cerou valley at sunrise

**WE COULD SHOOT AT SUNRISE ONE DAY, SUNSET THE NEXT. AS WELL AS NIGHT CAPTURES. WE WILL FOLLOW THE LIGHT...  
...C'EST EXQUISITE!**




Najac at sunset



Varen at dusk

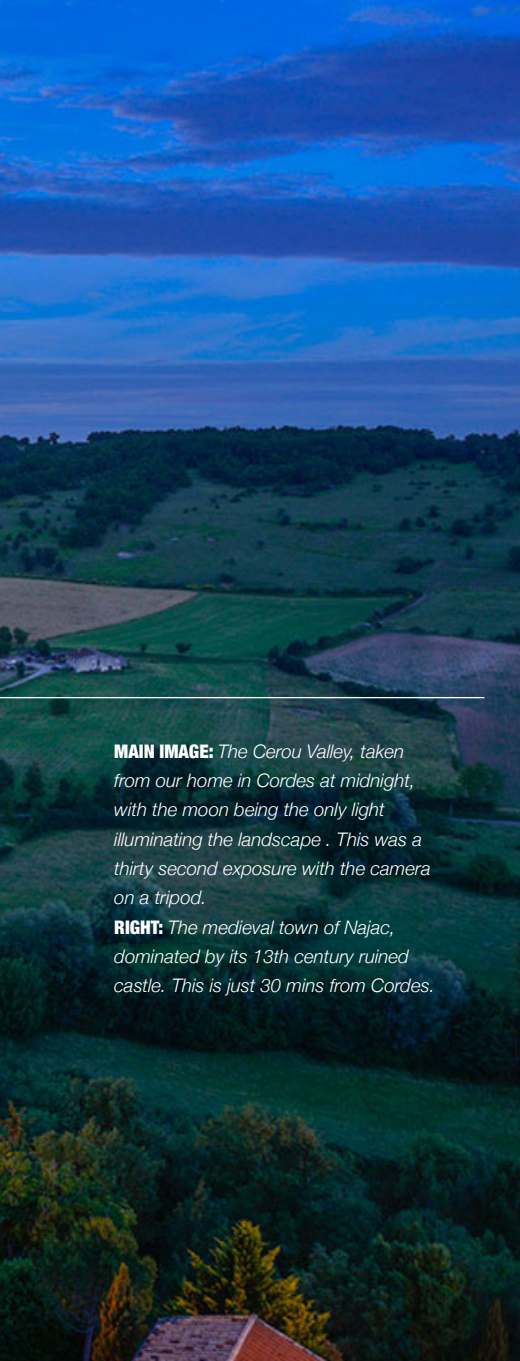


An aerial photograph of a village at dusk. The sky is a deep blue with a bright sun setting behind a layer of clouds, creating a golden glow. The landscape is a mix of green fields, trees, and stone buildings. In the foreground, several buildings are illuminated from within, casting a warm yellow light. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

**THE LIGHTING YOU CHOOSE WILL TRANSFORM ANY  
SUBJECT AND IS THE DETERMINING FACTOR WHETHER YOUR  
IMAGE 'POPS' OR IS SIMPLY A RECORD.**

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**MAIN IMAGE:** *The Cerou Valley, taken from our home in Cordes at midnight, with the moon being the only light illuminating the landscape . This was a thirty second exposure with the camera on a tripod.*

**RIGHT:** *The medieval town of Najac, dominated by its 13th century ruined castle. This is just 30 mins from Cordes.*







**DETAILS ARE  
JUST AS  
IMPORTANT  
AS THE BIG  
PICTURE.**

# THE TEAM

Your hosts at ESP Photo Tours are professional photographer Jon Davison and his wife Jude Brazendale who operate from their home in Cordes-sur-Ciel.

## **JON DAVISON**

Jon (a native Kiwi) has worked as a photographer all his life. He worked as a travel photographer for 20 years, plus has been photographing the aviation industry for an equal amount of time. He has been teaching Photoshop for 10 years, and has produced over 18 of his own books. Jon is passionate about all things photographic.

He lived in New Zealand for 23 years, 27 years in Western Australia, Oxford UK for 17 years, and has now made his home in France! Jon is an enthusiastic trainer and tour leader.

Please view his work at;

[www.eyeinthesky.com.au](http://www.eyeinthesky.com.au)

## **JUDE BRAZENDALE**

Jude (oddly enough, also a Kiwi!) has been involved with the arts and related fields, having had her own art gallery in Fremantle for many years. She is passionate about the culture and arts of the Occitanie region and its wines! Jude has been a teacher of English as a foreign language for 20 years.

On our larger tours of ten guests we are joined by West Australian photographer Kingsley Klau, plus Jons daughter Tess, who as a Michelin trained chef prepares all our meals at La Borie Grande.

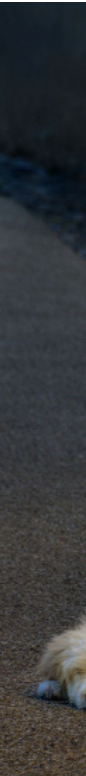


*Jon at Vaour, by Kingsley  
Klau. Jude at Merville, by  
Jon.*




*The 13th century village of Belcastel by the River Aveyron..*









A misty, golden-hour landscape with rolling hills and trees. The scene is bathed in a warm, golden light, likely from a low sun, creating a soft, ethereal atmosphere. The hills are covered in grass and scattered trees, some of which are silhouetted against the light. A few birds are visible in the sky, and a tall, thin pole stands on the right side of the frame. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

*Join us in the search for the  
intangible essence of light!*

## ADOBE PHOTOSHOP / LIGHTROOM

During the evenings at La Borie Grande we will introduce you to the importance of post production, or the optimisation of your images with Photoshop.

This means you can now truly present your images as YOU perceived them. This is often quite different from what your camera recorded, as your camera does not have the dynamic range that the human eye has. The problem is that if you leave your unedited images for too long, you forget what the lighting and colour really was at the time of capture. This is a critical issue and one that needs to be addressed.

We will also show you how to imbue your imagery with the emotions you were feeling at the time! it is important not to fall into the trap of believing that you have to record exactly what you see and stopping at that. The point is that you have arrived at a photographic location for a reason, and you have to decide what that reason is. This technology lets you reveal pretty much what you were feeling.



**OPPOSITE:** Dawn over the Cerou valley, Cordes-sur-Ciel.

**TOP:** Multiple frame portrait of Jon at La Borie Grande.

**CENTRE:** Before and after editing (perspective, colour and tonal balance).

**RIGHT:** Enhancing the mood to portray your feelings





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