



## OPTIONS FOR PILGRIMS TO THE PLACES OF MARIST ORIGINS

3

### TIPS FOR MARIST PILGRIMS



For  
pilgrims  
and  
groups:  
tips and  
choices



## OPTIONS FOR PILGRIMS TO THE PLACES OF MARIST ORIGINS

With the reintroduction of the Beatification Cause of Jean-Claude Colin, Founder of the Society of Mary, *'Options for Pilgrims'* is a practical resource for those who would explore the Marist places. It is a companion to Fr Craig Larkin's *'Pilgrimage: a guide book to the places of Marist origins'*.

Whilst places associated with other pioneer Marists are included, there is an emphasis on those linked with Jean-Claude Colin.

*'Options for Pilgrims'* comprises four booklets, each downloadable from [www.jeanclaudecolin.org](http://www.jeanclaudecolin.org):

1. **THE MARIST PLACES**  
summaries and guide map
2. **THE BUGEY MISSIONS**  
pictorial summaries of the 27 parishes of the pioneer missions of 1825-29
3. **TIPS FOR MARIST PILGRIMS**  
places to stay, itinerary planning, travel tips, guide map, times and distances
4. **PILGRIMAGE TO THE MARIST PLACES - 9-DAY OPTION**  
offering a nine-day pilgrimage option

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*Photography and editing: Ron Nissen SM (Sep 12, 2016)*

## INTRODUCTION

This booklet is a practical part of the *'Options for Pilgrims to the Places of Marist Origins'* series. As the title suggests, it offers choices for the pilgrim - of where to stay, where and how long to visit, what to take, what traps to avoid, etc.

It is a guide for both solo pilgrim and group leader. It presumes access to road transport from the central city of Lyon or its airport, or other cities or regional centres in France.

### Places to stay

There are many accommodation options in and around the Marist Places. The Internet abounds with links to these. This booklet points only to four, which have been happily used by Marist pilgrims in recent times.

### Itinerary planning

One basic itinerary is offered, with the option of lengthening or shortening according to the pilgrim's time and interest. (Booklet 4 in this series has a suggested nine-day option)

### Travel tips

Born of experience - sometimes embarrassing, painful &/or costly - this section contains serious and not-so-serious practical travel information for the pilgrim.

### Guide map

The centre fold is a simple guide map highlighting the places of key interest to Marists. It can be used with *'How far, how long?'* to help plan the pilgrim's days.

### How far, how long?

There are four simple tables with times and distances from each of the main accommodation centres to the Marist Places. An important aid for the pilgrim.

### Pilgrim or tourist?

Both pilgrim and tourist are travellers. They move, stop, eat, drink and rest. Their cameras and phones record memories along the way.

But the pilgrim is different: a person of faith, sometimes with a particular spirit. The Marist pilgrim has the spirit of Mary. And that makes all the difference.

Enjoy these tips for the Marist pilgrim.

## PLACES TO STAY

Four accommodation centres are included here. Check the guide map (pp 10-11) for their proximity to the various Marist Places.

### Belley

To the east of Lyon in the Rhône-Alps region, it is situated at the southern end of the Bugey mountains and well placed as a base for the Bugey villages, incl Cerdon; also suitable for Chanel places. Marist places to the west of Lyon are still mostly under two hours' drive away.

Train travel: from Lyon (Part-Dieu station) hourly, ca 1 hour to Culoz, 16 Km from Belley, 15-20 mins' drive. Taxi possible from Virieux-le-Grand, the stop before Culoz, although not all trains stop there.

Tourist Office: Grand Rue in centre of town; maps of town and district available free; English spoken. A couple of small hotels and B&B available, though pilgrims usually stay at Maison St Anthèlme...

#### *Maison St Anthèlme*

Budget accommodation; a former seminary; one star rating.

Location: 37 Rue Sainte Marie, Belley 01300; a few minutes' walk from main street of old Belley | GPS address: Belley / Rue Sainte Marie / 37 | Rooms: single, double/twin, triple quadruple; en suite or shared bathroom options; basic breakfast; access after 8 pm: code at main gate and front door; daily Mass (9am) may be possible, in upstairs chapel. Wifi: free, in public areas. | Parking: secure, off-street.

Easy walking distance to cathedral, bishop's house, college, La Capucinière; Marist Sisters (Bon Repos; J-M Chavoine Centre). 5 mins' drive to cemetery and Marist graves.

### La Neylière

#### *Notre Dame de la Neylière*

Residence of the Marist Fathers and burial place of Jean-Claude Colin.

It is central to the whole region of Marist places, and close to Lyon and St Chamond (The Hermitage); easy drives to Marist places west of Lyon. Even those to the east are still mostly within two hours' drive.

Location: Notre Dame de la Neylière, Pères Maristes, 69590 Pomeys, near Saint-Symphorien-sur-Coise | Tel: +33 4 78 48 40 33 | Fax: +33 4 78 44 45 85 | neyli@wanadoo.fr | <http://www.neyliere.com/> | GPS address: Pomeys / La



La Neylière



Lyon: Ste Foy lès Lyon



St Chamond: The Hermitage

Neylière | Rooms: main building rooms, mostly with en suite; 'Wallis' & 'Futuna' buildings have simple accommodation, incl for groups. Single, twin to quadruple and groups; special rates for young people; all meals available | Wifi: free, but signal patchy | Parking: on site

Jean-Claude Colin buried here in the small chapel. Some pioneer Marists buried in churchyard at nearby Pomeys, 3 mins' drive, 20 mins' walk.

## Lyon

The second city of France, Lyon abounds with accommodation options. One of these is with the Marist community of Ste Foy in the near southern suburbs.

### **Marist community, Ste Foy lès Lyon**

Location: 74 Rue (or Chemin) du Grand Roule, Ste Foy lès Lyon  
Tel: +33 4 78 51 84 12 | Fax: +33 4 72 66 85 44 | GPS address: Ste Foy lès Lyon / Rue (or Chemin) du Grand Roule / 74 | Rooms: mostly single rooms with en suite | Wifi available | Parking: on site, secure.

Proximity to local Marist places: 10 mins drive to Fourvière, Laity tower, Puylata and the cathedral. Conveniently, the No 8 bus (to/from Lyon Perrache station) stops at the door; mostly elderly resident community; limited English spoken.

## St Chamond

Central to the whole region of Marist places, and close to La Neylière and Lyon.

### **Notre Dame de L'Hermitage**

Heartland of Marist Brothers and shrine of St Marcellin Champagnat; 6 mins' drive to La Valla | further drives to Marhles/Le Rosey, birthplace of Champagnat | short drive to Lyon; easy drives to Marist places west of Lyon | further to those to the east.

Location: 3 Chemin de l'Hermitage, 42405 St Chamond, France | Tel: +33 04 77 22 10 56 | Mobile: +33 06 40 06 78 95 | hermitage@maristes.org | www.notredamedelhermitage-saintchamond.fr/ (mostly French) | GPS address: St Chamond / Rue Marcelin Champagnat | Rooms: various capacities, en suite; | Wifi | Parking: on site, secure

Train: Take the train from Lyon (Part-Dieu station) to St Etienne. Alight at St Chamond, the third stop. It takes about 40 minutes. Then call the Hermitage. Allow 15 minutes for transport to arrive. Taxis can only be called with prior booking and there may not be waiting taxis at the St Chamond station. Train tickets are purchased by machine or over the counter. Trains leave every half hour.

## ITINERARY PLANNING

A comprehensive visit to the places of Marist origins takes at least a week.

Most pilgrims enter the Marist region at **Lyon** (air or rail) then use self-drive. Consult 'Travel tips' (pp 8-9, 12-13).

A **nine-day** itinerary is a good starting point; stay longer if you wish; shorten or select visits as needed. Consult the guide map (pp 10 - 11) and 'How far, how long' (pp 14-17).

### **Suggested itinerary**

Start in the west, then move east. Begin with a base at **La Neylière** (or Lyon or St Chamond/The Hermitage) then move to **Belley**.

#### **Day 1**

La Neylière: arrival & settling in

#### **Day 2**

Le Puy

#### **Day 3**

Chavoin & Colin places: Coutouvre, Jarnosse, (Pradines); Barbery-St Bonnet-le-Troncy,

#### **Day 4**

Lyon: Fourvière, La Favorite, Puylata, Cathedral, Ste Foy

#### **Day 5**

Champagnat places: The Hermitage, La Valla, Marhles/Rozey

#### **Day 6**

Rest/retreat day; afternoon/evening: travel to Belley

#### **Day 7**

Belley & southern Bugey

#### **Day 8**

Cerdon & northern Bugey

#### **Day 9**

Chanel places: Bourg/Brou, Cuët/La Potière/Cras/Montrevel, (Crozet)

**Optional extra day** (based in or near Lyon)

Paray-le-Monial, Taizé, Ars

## TRAVEL TIPS

For the seasoned or new traveller, some of these tips may be useful when travelling through the regions of the Marist Places in France...

### Driving in France

- The best way - really, the only way - of getting around the Marist Places is in a car/van with GPS or a knowledgeable driver/guide.
- European configuration: left-hand drive, right side of the carriageway (opposite to Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, UK and others).
- Rental cars are usually manual drive; gear shift to the right of the driver.
- Request automatic drive in advance if you cannot handle manual.
- Windscreen wiper and light control/turn indicator stalks are opposite to most RH drive cars.
- If you are a first-time LH driver take extra care when cornering or parking.
- Petrol stations in some places may be few, and closed at night; some have self-serve facilities, but a credit card is needed (but not all credit cards are accepted!).
- French drivers take motorway fast lanes seriously; keep out of them unless you are overtaking or prepared to cruise at/over 130kph (110 kph in the wet).
- Speed cameras are cunningly placed and efficient.

### Rental cars

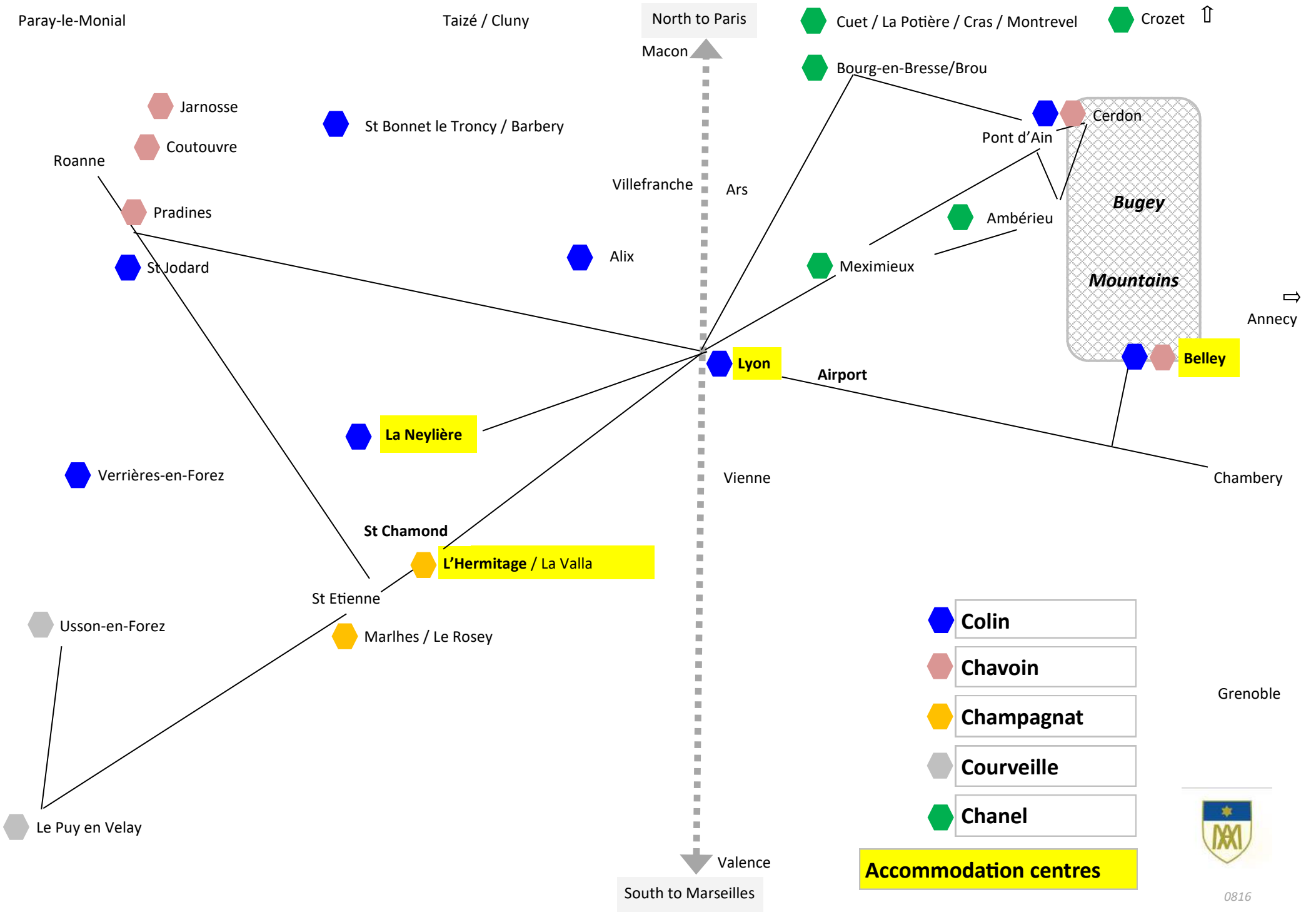
- Online bookings using, eg, [www.booking.com](http://www.booking.com), are reliable.
- If flying to Lyon: Lyon St Exupéry airport has good rental car options.
- If traveling by train (eg from Rome, Paris, Geneva): Lyon Part-Dieu station has good rental car services.
- Car needs to be re-fuelled before return (otherwise exorbitant fuel charge).
- When returning to the airport, look for the signs '*Voitures de location*' (rental cars); switch off the GPS ('cancel route') on arriving at the airport precincts (it will only distract—or mislead!) and focus on following the signs.
- Lyon St Exupéry airport has a petrol station; there are two other petrol stations not far from the airport on D306 at St Laurent de Mure (GPS: St Laurent de Mure / Ave de Moulin / 15); there are almost opposite one another, in case one is closed.

### GPS

- Purchasing software for your smart phone (eg '*Sygit*') and downloading country maps is a good option; includes radar alerts. Familiarise yourself with it before traveling to France. Take a phone cradle with you, or buy one in France. Also car power leads for phone and other devices.
- Most rental cars are equipped with GPS; some charge extra (a daily fee) for this. Familiarise yourself with its working before leaving the rental place; you may need to start the motor first. Ask for assistance from the rental staff, as needed.
- Set your language and voice preferences.
- Click 'no' when asked 'do you wish to avoid tolls'; it may be a false economy to save on toll fees only to be taken on longer/dubious alternative routes.
- Tollways (Fr: '*péage*')
  - Take ticket from the first point\*; pay at the exit point.
  - \*Exception: Lyon city to Lyon St Exupéry airport: no ticket; pay at the exit.
  - Use cash\*\*; have notes and coins in the car (min of €10).
  - \*\* Try credit card first if you wish, but many tolls do not accept overseas cards.

### Maps

- Even if you have GPS, maps are a good investment.
- Buy some map/s at the first service centre (eg leaving Lyon St Exupéry airport, heading East to Belley: stop at 'L'Aire de L'Isle D'Abeau' roadside centre; good facilities and shops; ca 24 Km from airport).
- Map options include: Rhône-Alpes (Michelin, #523), Rhône-Alpes (Blay Foldex), 60 km autour de Lyon (Blay Foldex) (not all Marist Places), France (Michelin #721).
- Consult your map before setting the GPS, checking expected main towns en route, road/highway numbers.
- Use a highlight pen or red biro as needed.
- Be kind to your map, folding carefully after each use.
- Local/town maps are often available at accommodation centres; always at Tourist Information places. Ask 'Vous avez une carte de la ville, s'il vous plaît?' – or try your own language. English usually works.



## Internet maps

- These abound; try Google.
- fr.mappy.com is a very useful web site for times/distances in France (use translate option if needed).

## Cash and credit cards

- Currency is Euro.
- Have a quick, approximate currency conversion formula (eg €1 = AUD 1.50).
- On the Internet, try 'XE currency converter' (www.xe.com).
- Most cards work well in most places.
- Some cards do not work in some supermarkets and tollways, so have currency on hand.

## ATMs

- There are plenty of ATMs (except in remote areas, eg Bugey mountains).
- ATMs have lower charges than 'exchange' places at airports and railways.
- Select your language option early.

## Train travel

- Rail access to Marist Places (outside of Lyon) is limited to Le Puy, St Chamond and Belley/Culoz (15-20 min car drive from Belley).
- Lyon has two main stations: Lyon Part-Dieu and Lyon Perrache.
- Lyon St Exupéry airport has its own station with good service to/from Lyon, as well as direct TGV to/from Paris.
- (Rome: Marists traveling from Rome airport to the SM General House: there are two trains from Fiumicino airport: to 'Roma Termini' and 'Roma Trastevere'; buy ticket and validate it before boarding in machine at platform entrance (there are inspectors on trains!). At 'Roma Termini' take a cab to Via Poerio 63 or the 75 bus (terminates outside General House). At 'Roma Trastevere' (car park side) take a cab, or phone the General House to be picked up; 06 589 9041; arrange beforehand).

## Seasons

- In advance, check weather (through Google – eg 'weather in France') to assist choice of clothing.
- Temperatures vary within the Marist Places (eg La Neylière is colder than Lyon).
- Accommodation rates can vary with the season.

## Internet access/Wifi

- Wifi is widely available; pronounced in Fr: 'wee-fee'.
- Most accommodation places, even small ones, have Wifi, usually free, but some charge.
- Some places have cable access in rooms.
- Consider taking an Internet access device but only if your ISP offers 'add-on' deals; organise before leaving your home country or online—otherwise you may face huge bills using your local service overseas.
- If there is trouble sending outgoing emails, if using 'client mail' (eg bigpond, etc) you may need to go to 'accounts'/servers' and check/change the 'outgoing mail server' address or tick the box 'my account needs authentication'; if using 'webmail' (eg gmail, yahoo, hotmail, etc) most services work; some do not.

## Amenities

- Toilets are usually marked on town maps, often signed 'WC' (Fr 'vay say') or 'Toilettes' (Fr: 'twah let'); when in need say 'le WC?' with a hopeful look.
- Basin taps are often marked 'C' and 'F'; 'C' is '*chaud*' (= hot; **not** 'C' for cold); 'F' is '*froid*'/cold; avoid scalding yourself.
- Bath towels at some budget accommodation places in France are sometimes very tiny; don't be surprised or waste time complaining.

## Luggage

- Use clear identification (inside and outside); distinctive coloured strap/ribbons.

## Cameras, computers, phone.

- Keep them out of sight, even in the car; use the boot/trunk or cover with a coat.
- Back-up all new computer documents to an external device – carry the back-up device in a separate bag (not with the computer).
- Bring electrical power point adaptor/s (check with Google, as needed).

## HOW FAR, HOW LONG?

Approximate times and distances  
from main accommodation centres to the Marist Places

From <b>Belley</b> to	Time	Km
Alix	1 hr 50	146
Ambérieu	50	45
Annecy	1 hr 10	75
Ars	1 hr 40	141
Belley		
Brou (Bourg en Bresse)	1 hr 25	82
Cerdon	1 hr 10	57
Coutouvre	2 hr 45	182
Crozet	1 hr 35	86
Cuet	1 hr 35	104
La Neylière	2 hr	146
La Valla	1 hr 55	141
Le Puy	2 hr 40	217
Lyon	1 hr 20	103
Lyon St Exupery (airport)	1 hr 05	83
Marseille	3 hr 45	385
Meximieux	1 hr 10	64
Paray-le-Monial	2 hr 20	189
Paris	5 hr 05	510
Roanne	2 hr 35	227
St Bonnet le Troncy	2 hr 20	170
St Chamond (The Hermitage)	1 hr 45	135
St Jodard	2 hr 30	212
Taizé (Cluny)	1 hr 55	145
Usson-en-Forez	2 hr 30	192
Verrières-en-Forez	2 hr 30	194
Villefranche-sur-Saone	1 hr 35	135

From <b>La Neylière</b> to	Time	Km
Alix	1 hr	46
Ambérieu	1 hr 40	108
Annecy	2 hr 05	186
Ars	1 hr 25	71
Belley	2 hr	145
Brou (Bourg en Bresse)	1 hr 50	130
Cerdon	1 hr 50	123
Coutouvre	1 hr 20	89
Crozet	2 hr 40	194
Cuet	2 hr	152
La Neylière		
La Valla	1 hr	41
Le Puy	1 hr 40	112
Lyon	50	37
Lyon St Exupery (airport)	1 hr 10	77
Marseille	3 hr 30	340
Meximieux	1 hr 25	79
Paray-le-Monial	2 hr	133
Paris	5 hr 15	500
Roanne	1 hr 10	81
St Bonnet le Troncy	1 hr 35	75
St Chamond (The Hermitage)	50	35
St Jodard	1 hr	66
Taizé (Cluny)	1 hr 50	121
Usson-en-Forez	1 hr 20	66
Verrières-en-Forez	1 hr	47
Villefranche-sur-Saone	1 hr 20	65



From <b>Lyon</b> to	Time	Km
Alix	45	35
Ambérieu	1 hr	63
Annecy	1 hr 30	141
Ars	45	42
Belley	1 hr 25	100
Brou (Bourg en Bresse)	1 hr 10	91
Cerdon	1 hr 10	84
Coutouvre	1 hr 40	84
Crozet	2 hr	156
Cuet	1 hr 20	113
La Neylière	55	38
La Valla	1 hr	57
Le Puy	1 hr 45	132
Lyon		
Lyon St Exupery (airport)	35	32
Marseille	3 hr	315
Meximieux	45	45
Paray-le-Monial	1 hr 40	136
Paris	4 hr 30	470
Roanne	1 hr 35	88
St Bonnet le Troncy	1 hr 20	64
St Chamond (The Hermitage)	50	51
St Jodard	1 hr 30	127
Taizé (Cluny)	1 hr 10	92
Usson-en-Forez	1 hr 35	108
Verrières-en-Forez	1 hr 30	110
Villefranche-sur-Saone	40	36

From <b>St Chamond</b> to	Time	Km
Alix	1 hr 10	84
Ambérieu	1 hr 30	109
Annecy	1 hr 50	180
Ars	1 hr 10	91
Belley	1 hr 40	138
Brou (Bourg en Bresse)	1 hr 35	134
Cerdon	1 hr 30	124
Coutouvre	1 hr 15	104
Crozet	2 hr 20	196
Cuet	1 hr 40	156
La Neylière	50	37
La Valla	10	6
Le Puy	1 hr 10	86
Lyon	40	53
Lyon St Exupery (airport)	50	69
Marseille	3 hr 10	330
Meximieux	1 hr 10	92
Paray-le-Monial	1 hr 50	147
Paris	5 hr	520
Roanne	1 hr 10	95
St Bonnet le Troncy	1 hr 45	120
St Chamond (The Hermitage)		
St Jodard	1 hr 10	81
Taizé (Cluny)	1 hr 35	142
Usson-en-Forez	1 hr 05	61
Verrières-en-Forez	1 hr 10	61
Villefranche-sur-Saone	1 hr 05	85

# NOTES

