

By the River Arre

Cévennes



L'Arre (N Thomas)



A family walk on a shady riverside, through a beautiful sweet-chestnut grove. Picnic and bathing spots on the return, at the Avèze waterfalls.

Useful information

Practice : Pédestre

Duration : 2 h

Length : 5.6 km

Trek ascent : 127 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Boucle

Themes : Faune et flore, Transports en commun

Trek

Departure : Le Vigan, Mairie (town hall)

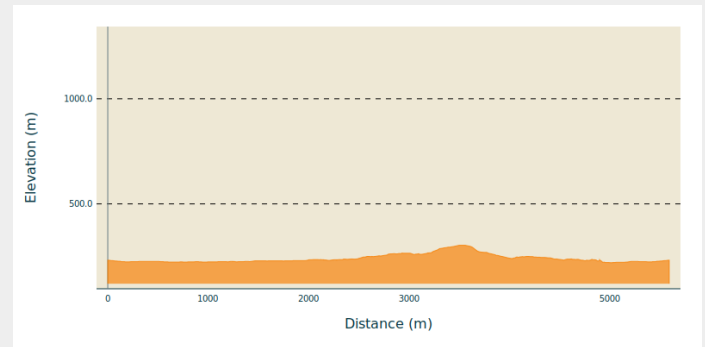
Arrival : Le Vigan, Mairie (town hall)

Markings : — Balisage jaune et mobilier signalétique

Cities : 1. Le Vigan

2. Avèze

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 223 m Max elevation 312 m

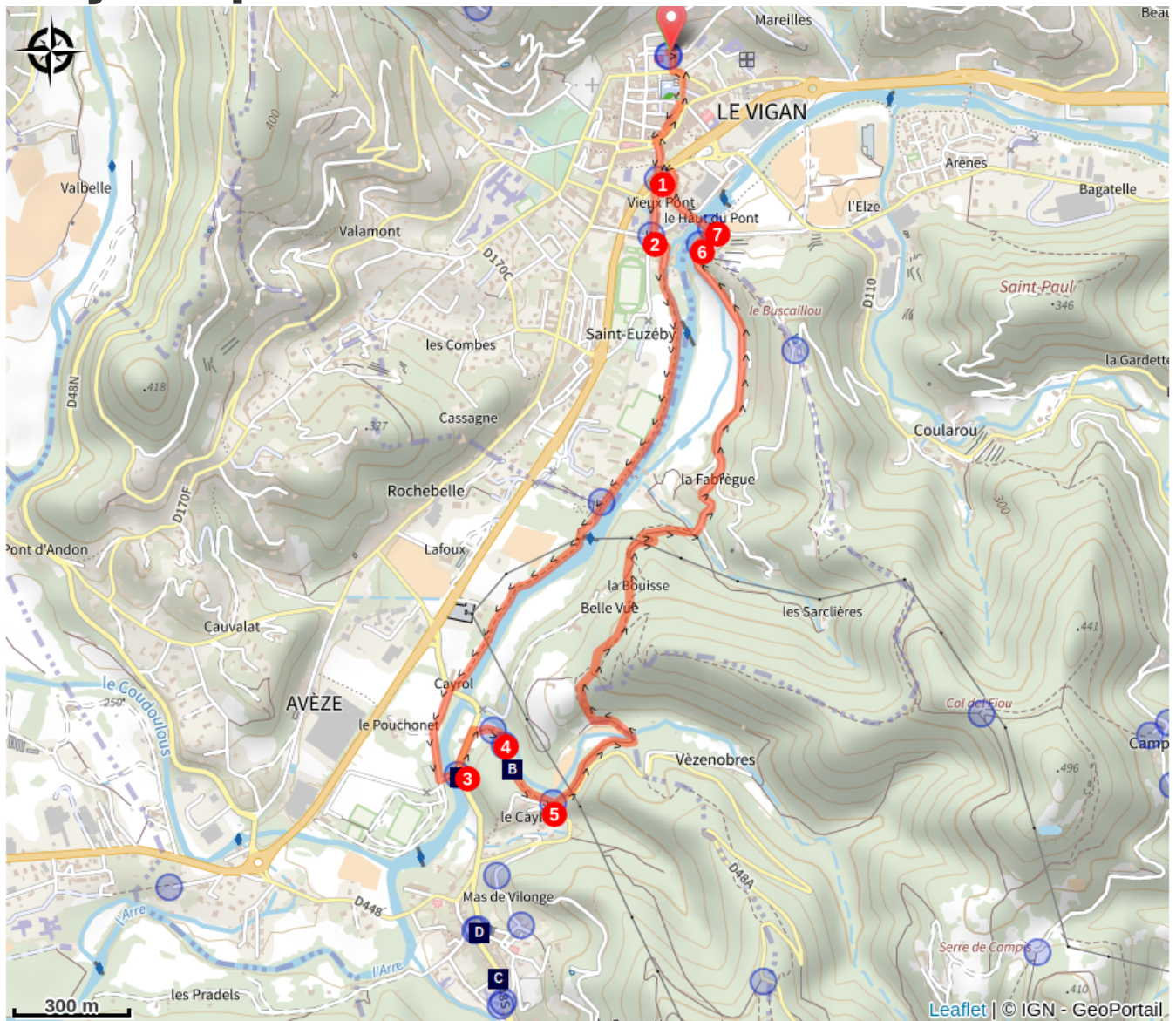
Signposts will guide you all along this route. In the description below, the signposted place names and/or directions are given in **bold italics** between quotation marks :

Starting from "**LE VIGAN**", at the Mairie (town hall) car park, walk to "**AVEZE**" via :

1. "**Château d'Assas**",
2. "**Les Calquières**",
3. "**Vieux Pont**".
4. Get to "**PONT DE MOUSSE**", then continue to :
5. "**Le Cayla**" before returning to "**LE VIGAN**" via :
6. "**Le Haut du Pont**",
7. "**Vieux Pont**" and "**Château d'Assas**".

This walk is taken from the guidebook **Les Vallées Cévenoles - En Pays Viganais**, published by the Communauté de communes Pays Viganais-Cévennes as part of the collection Espaces Naturels Gardois and the label Gard Pleine Nature.

On your path...



The white-throated dipper (A)

The Pont de Mousse (moss bridge)
(B)

The village of Avèze (C)

The Château de Montcalm (D)

All useful information

Advices

Make sure your equipment is appropriate for the day's weather conditions. Take enough water, wear sturdy shoes and put on a hat. You must keep your dog on a leash.

How to come ?

Transports

This hike is accessible by public transport.

To consult the updated schedules and plan your trip, use the route calculator below by entering **the arrival stop : LE VIGAN - Community of Communes**

Alès bus line 142

Nîmes bus line 140

Montpellier bus line 608

LIO Région Occitanie - <https://lio.laregion.fr/>

Access

From Alès or Nîmes take the D999 to Le Vigan

Advised parking

Mairie (town hall)

Information desks

Tourism office Cévennes and Navacelles, Le Vigan

Maison de pays, place du Marché, BP 21,
30120 Le Vigan

contact@sudcevennes.com

Tel : 04 67 81 01 72

<https://sudcevennes.com/>



Source

On your path...



The white-throated dipper (A)

White-throated dippers are nesting in the bridge's cavities. These birds look like they are in evening wear: white shirt and dark grey frock coat complete with an elegant tail, short and uplifted. They live in clean waterways with fairly strong currents. Perched on stones sticking out of the water, they inspect the riverbed agitatedly. Also called water ouzels, they can dive and then walk underwater while searching the riverbed for food. In one day, they can dive up to 1,600 times and stay underwater for a cumulative total of two hours.

Attribution : Régis Descamps



The Pont de Mousse (moss bridge) (B)

This natural tuff bridge was described by a Mr Chante in 1933: "a small path leads to the Vézénobre brook, in which blocks of tuff covered in abundant vegetation have formed the moss bridge. The arch carries an irrigation channel, and thousands of crystal-clear drops fall without cease from the vault into the brook which, 50 metres from here, produces five waterfalls". The whole hillside is tuff rock, which was used to build the neighbouring terrace walls. In the 14th and 15th centuries, a flour mill called Moulin de la Rode stood near the bridge.

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas



The village of Avèze (C)

The first written mentions of Avèze are as Aveda in 1150 and as Aveza in 1262. Avèze was founded around the year 800 by Benedictine monks. For some authors, its etymology is Aveda ("I salute you, Madam"), words supposedly taught by the priests to the inhabitants who had to say them whenever they passed the image of the Virgin Mary.

Its picturesque lanes with the elegant 18th and 19th-century manor houses used to alternate with spinning mills, farms and apple meadows that covered the valley floor.

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas



The Château de Montcalm (D)

The walls of the park surrounding the mediaeval Château de Montcalm border the road. The former fortress was remodelled several times. The fortifications and ramparts were pulled down in 1609. The residence was redesigned in the 18th century and an avenue of cedars planted in the park. In the late 19th century, the roofs bristled with crenellations. It was in the 1930s that the château assumed its current appearance.

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas