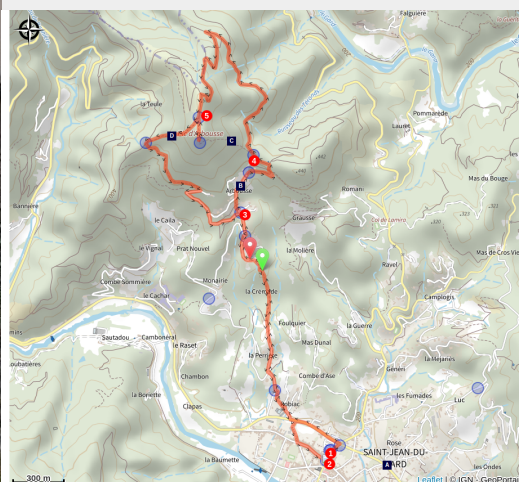


From one Gardon to the next

Cévennes



Arrousse (nathalie.thomas)



A pretty walk around the Pic d'Arrousse peak, offering superb panoramic views over the Vallée Française, Mont Lozère and Gardon de Saint-Jean valley.

Useful information

Practice : Pédestre

Duration : 3 h

Length : 7.9 km

Trek ascent : 416 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Boucle

Themes : Faune et flore, Transports en commun

Trek

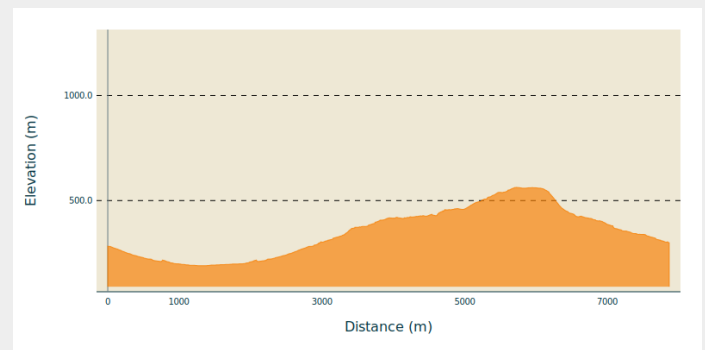
Departure : Saint-Jean-du-Gard (Post Office)

Arrival : Saint-Jean-du-Gard (Post Office)

Markings :  Balisage jaune et mobilier signalétique

Cities : 1. Saint-Jean-du-Gard
2. Saint-Étienne-Vallée-Française

Altimetric profile



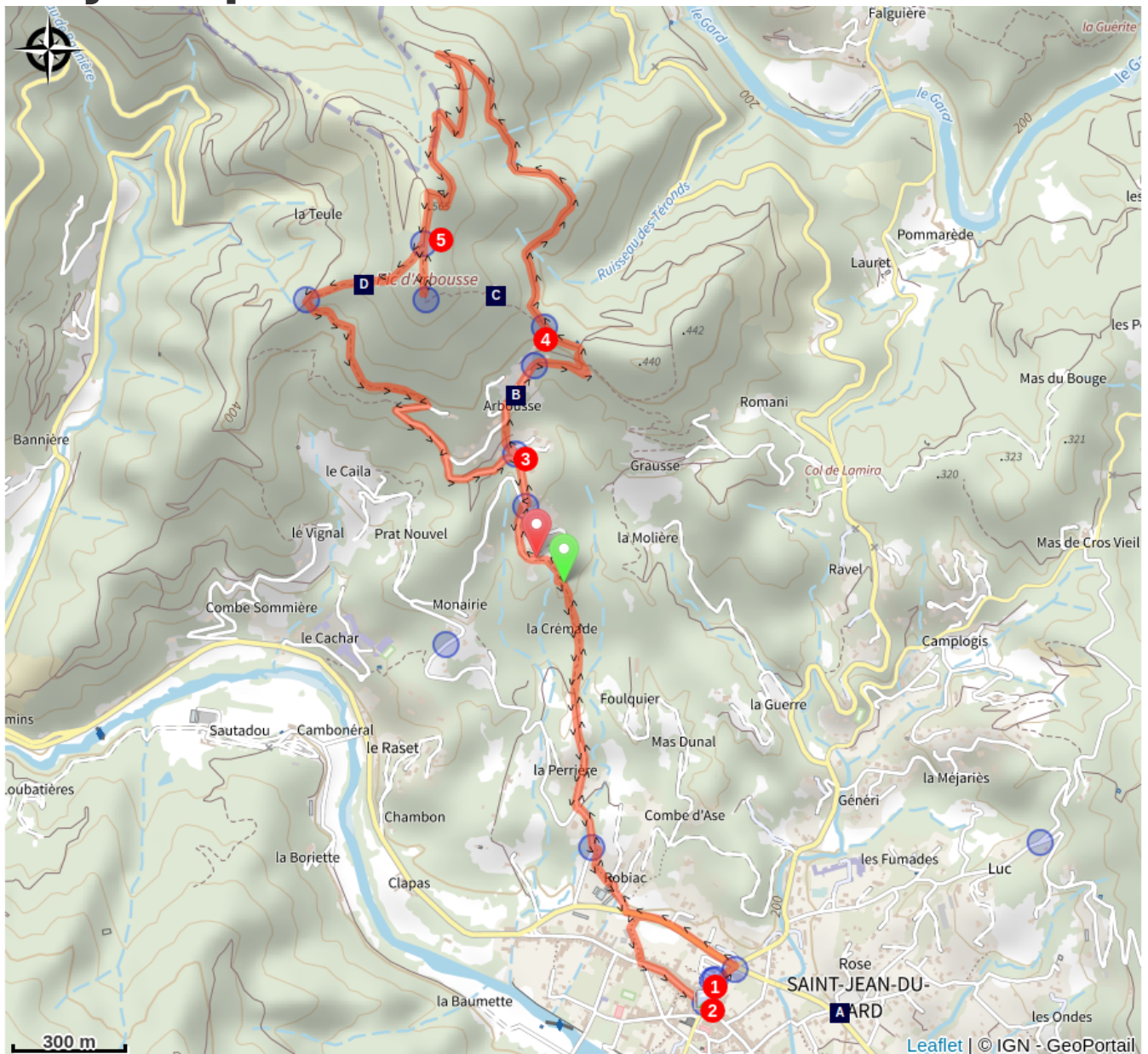
Min elevation 192 m Max elevation 560 m

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 :

1. Starting at “**Saint-Jean-du-Gard - Office du Tourisme**”, walk to “**Pic d’Arbousse**” via:
2. “**St Jean - Musée**”,
3. “**Arbousse**” and
4. “**Les Théronds**”. Then go to
5. “**La Teule**”. From here, do a detour (there-and-back) to “**Pic d’Arbousse**” (walk down to the viewpoint below the peak). From “**La Teule**”, return to “**Saint Jean du Gard**” via “**Arbousse**” (3) and “**St Jean - Musée**” (2).

This hike is taken from the guidebook **Cévennes et vallées du Gardon, autour d’Anduze et Saint-Jean-du-Gard**, published by the Agglomération d’Alès as part of the collection Espaces Naturels Gardois and the label Gard Pleine Nature.

On your path...



Albin Mercoiret (A)
The maritime pine (C)

The hamlet of Arbousse (B)
The strawberry tree (D)

All useful information

Advices

Make sure your equipment is appropriate for the day's weather conditions. Remember that the weather changes quickly in the mountains. Take enough water.

How to come ?

Transports

LiO is the regional public transport service of the Occitanie/ Pyrénées – Méditerranée region. It facilitates everyone's movements by prioritising public transport. For more information, go to the lio Occitanie app or visit : <https://www.mestrajets.lio.laregion.fr>

Access

From Anduze, drive to St-Jean-du-Gard on the D907

Advised parking

La poste (Post Office)

Information desks

Tourism office Cévennes Tourisme, Anduze

Plan de Brie, 30140 Anduze

contact@cevennes-tourisme.fr

Tel : 04 66 61 98 17

<https://www.cevennes-tourisme.fr/>



Tourism office Cévennes Tourisme, Saint-Jean-du-Gard

Maison rouge, 30270 Saint-Jean-du-Gard

contact@cevennes-tourisme.fr

Tel : 04 66 85 32 11

<https://www.cevennes-tourisme.fr/>



Source



Parc national des Cévennes

<http://www.cevennes-parcnational.fr/>

On your path...



Albin Mercoiret (A)

Today, he would be over 100 years old. All the inhabitants of St Jean remember this self-taught man, a fervent Protestant, town counsellor, founder of the tourist office, and a butcher by profession. Always smiling in his blue overalls, as solid as the vine stock that he regularly went up the hill to look after, pushing his wheelbarrow and followed by his few sheep. When he wanted to take the train, he sent his children ahead to let the stationmaster know that he would be arriving. Then he walked through the small town greeting his acquaintances while in the distance the locomotive's whistle sounded impatiently – but the train never left without him.

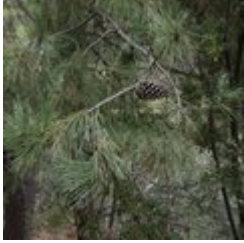
Attribution : Nathalie Thomas



The hamlet of Arbousse (B)

When Tonin moved to Mas d'Arbousse in 1912, the road up from Saint-Jean-du-Gard was only a path. Without a single break, he carried his heavy cherrywood wardrobe on his back – having first removed the doors and shelves. On arrival in the hamlet, he quenched his thirst and then went back down for the rest of his piece of furniture. Thanks to the money he made by raising silkworms, Tonin paid off the purchase of his mas ((isolated farm) in only four seasons! In 1968 the hamlet of Arbousse only had three inhabitants compared to the forty-five it has today – the same number as in the 19th century.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



The maritime pine (C)

The maritime pine grows up to 30 metres tall and has a pale crown. Its needles are over 20 centimetres long, and its asymmetrical cones are the largest of any pine in Europe. The bark of its trunk is dark red and cracked. This pine is not native but was planted for the needs of the mines in the 19th century because of its fast growth. It was used to prop up mine tunnels. When the wood creaked, miners knew that a collapse was imminent.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



The strawberry tree (D)

The strawberry tree, which has finely serrated evergreen leaves, brightens up the autumn not only with its white bell-like flowers but also with its orange-red fruit. For Pliny the Elder, the strawberry tree was related to the strawberry because of the shape of its fruit, a little prickly ball, and its colour. Yet the Latin origin of its name *arbutus unedo* is supposedly the contraction of *unum edo*: "I only ate one". However, ripe tree strawberries, while stodgy, are quite soft and do not taste bad. Nowadays, they tend to be eaten mostly as jelly.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas