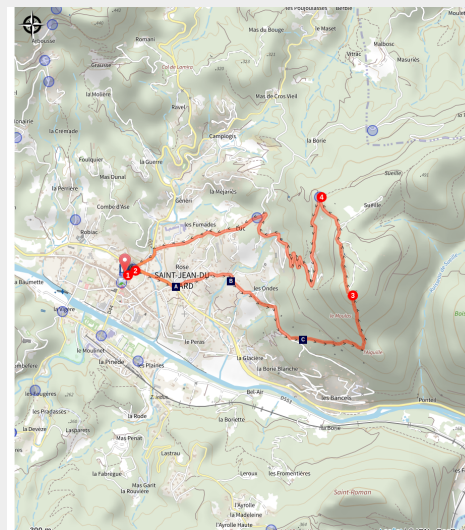


Les Escorces

CA Alès Agglomération



Vue sur St-Jean du Gard depuis le rocher d'Escorces (Nathalie Thomas)



A beautiful climb that is quite steep towards the end. At the ruiniform blockfield of Les Escorces rocks, continue to the pylon, from where you can discover the surrounding heights: the rocks above Anduze, Pic Saint-Loup, the Mont Liron range, and the top of Mont Aigoual.

Conquer the hillside of Les Escorces on drystone staircases built into the abandoned faïsses (crop terraces), which were once planted with olive trees and vines.

Useful information

Practice : Pédestre

Duration : 2 h 30

Length : 5.9 km

Trek ascent : 327 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Boucle

Themes : Architecture et village, Histoire et culture, Transports en commun

Trek

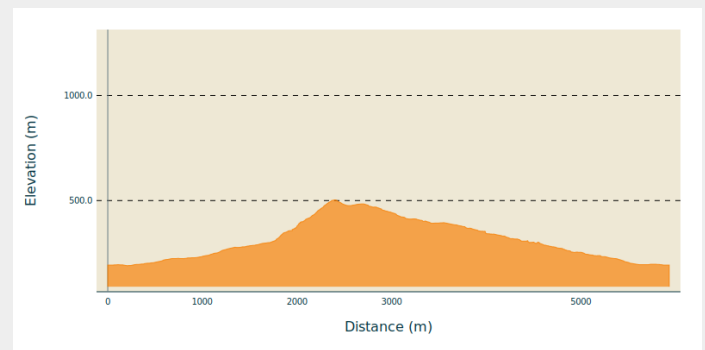
Departure : Saint-Jean du Gard

Arrival : Saint-Jean du Gard

Markings : — Balisage jaune et mobilier signalétique

Cities : 1. Saint-Jean-du-Gard

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 194 m Max elevation 499 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. Start from the car park in "**St-Jean du Gard-Office du Tourisme**". Walk in the direction of:
2. "**Saint Jean du Gard**". Then direction "**Oppidum de Sueille, 3,1 km**"; the first 250m are on the D 907 road. Turn left onto Chemin Albin Mercoiret and stay on it for 600 m (yellow waymarks), then take the cobblestoned path on the right that joins up with the road again. Turn right onto the road, then take the track on the left that turns into a path going uphill through the faïsses to Les Escorces rocks. Be careful: there is no parapet!
3. Turn left towards the pylon; walk around it on the right to reach a road that you leave after 100 m for a path on the left running along a fence. The path joins up with the road: go downhill on it.
4. At the signpost "**Oppidum de Sueille**", continue downhill on the road towards "**Saint-Jean du Gard 2.9 km**" until you reach Saint-Jean du Gard.

This hike is taken from the guidebook **Cévennes et Vallées des Gardons, autour d'Anduze et de St-Jean du Gard**, published by the Communauté de communes Alès Agglomération as part of the collection Espaces Naturels Gardois and the label Gard Pleine Nature.

On your path...



Albin Mercoiret (A)

The neighbourhood of La
Grand'Vigne (B)

The faïsses (crop terraces) (C)

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, wear sturdy shoes and put on a hat.

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, call 08 10 33 42 73 or go to www.laregion.fr

Access

From Alès, towards Anduze on the D 50, then to St-Jean du Gard on the D 907.

Advised parking

Saint-jean du Gard, the post office

Information desks

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

CA Alès Agglomération



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 neighbourhood of La Grand'Vigne (B)

In the second half of the 20th century, the whole neighbourhood of La Grand'Vigne was transformed. At the time, it ranged up the hill in levels to the edge of the chestnut groves, and was covered in olive trees and vines. Every family owned a few acres of terraced land enabling it to produce oil and wine, including from Clinton grapes imported from the United States in the late 19th century. It was illegal to sell wine made from this variety on the grounds that it was dangerous for the nervous system.

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas



The faïsses (crop terraces) (C)

With no other means than their tenacious will, back and legs, local smallholders built and rebuilt the low walls and levelled the soil that torrential rains regularly swept away. They tirelessly used the staircases in the supporting walls as many times as necessary, equipped with a cabusseau (a stuffed pack that protected the back), a terrairau (basket for carrying soil and stones) and of course the indispensable two-tined hoe, the bigot.

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas
