

Lique Ser

Gard



La vue sur la vallée Française (Béatrice Galzin)



You enter an inhabited vale that can only be accessed on foot. Here, human traces are omnipresent, and every stone has a story to tell.

This vale, where stones and soil have been transported on men's and women's backs, is a little jewel of agricultural heritage. Observe it all, down to the very last house in ruins. There are handsome panoramas all along the route, and a pretty downhill section on the former track linking Le Pampidou and St-André de Valborgne.

Useful information

Practice : Pédestre

Duration : 4 h

Length : 11.8 km

Trek ascent : 604 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Boucle

Themes : Architecture et village, Histoire et culture

Trek

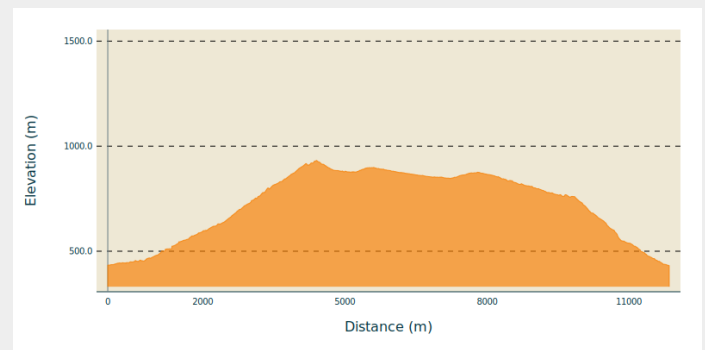
Departure : St-André-de-Valborgne

Arrival : St-André-de-Valborgne

Markings : — Balisage jaune et mobilier signalétique

Cities : 1. Saint-André-de-Valborgne

Altimetric profile



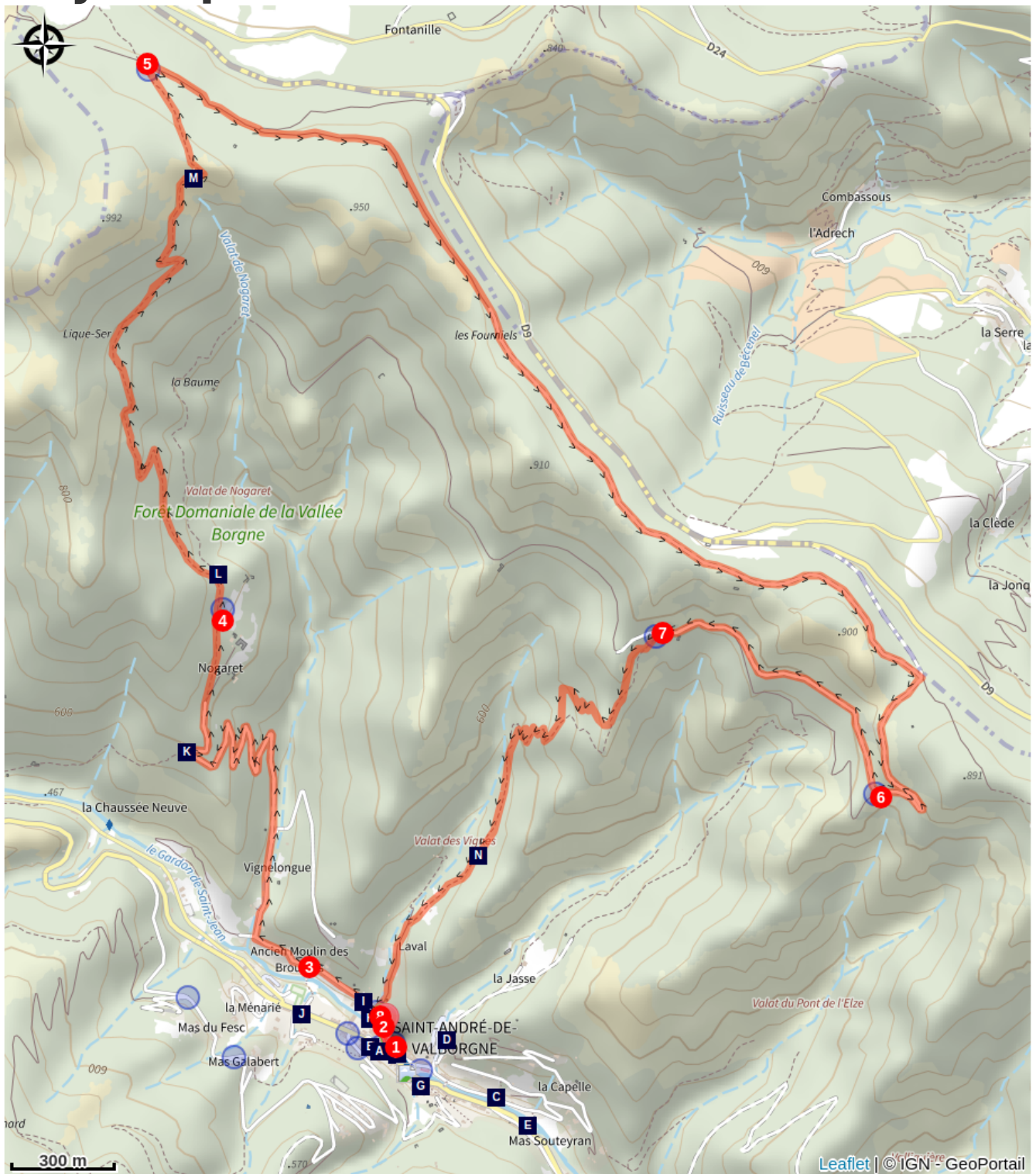
Min elevation 438 m Max elevation 926 m

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

The departure point is at the old St-André bridge. Cross it and turn left towards **“Les Vignes”**. Shortly afterwards, follow "Rougeiresque" uphill into the grapevine ravine, towards the Corniche des Cévennes road.

1. At **“Rougeiresque”**, take the track on the right to the signpost **“Chemin de Castanet”**, then continue on your left towards **“Malataverne”**.
2. At the signpost **“Malataverne”**, leave the track and take the path on the left towards “Réservoir du Serre”.
3. At **“Réservoir du Serre”** continue on the path on your right to return to the village on a tarred lane, the Nogaret road. As you enter the village, in front of the signpost **“Les Vignes”**, head towards **“Saint- André”**, on the left bank.

On your path...



The village of St André de Valborgne (A)

Two in one (C)

 Fish and other animals... (E)

Water! (G)

The tanners' district (I)

One spring, five fountains (B)

Well-supplied (D)

The gardonnades (F)

The age of silk (H)

Traces of giants? (J)

The Château de Nogaret (K)
Lique Ser (M)

The sweet chestnut : a food tree (L)
A grapevine ravine in schist
country (N)

All useful information

Advices

Before committing yourself to a circuit, ensure that it is suitable for your activity level and ability. Remember that the weather changes quickly in the mountains. Take enough water. Please close all gates and barriers behind you.

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 (in term time).

Access

From Florac, towards St-André de Valborgne on the D907 through the villages of Vébron, Les Vanelles and Rousses. Drive through the Tunnel du Marquairès and then downhill towards St-André de Valborgne – where the walk starts.

Advised parking

St-André-de-Valborgne

Information desks

Tourism & national parc'house

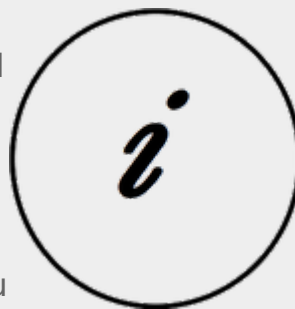
Col de la Serreyrède, 30570 Val d'Aigoual

maisonde-laigoual@sudcevennes.com

Tel : 04 67 82 64 67

<https://www.sudcevennes.com>

Accessibility : Accessible aux personnes à mobilité réduite sur les trois niveaux du bâtiment (ascenseur)



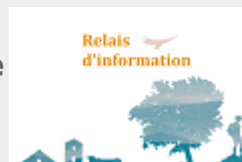
Tourism office Mont Aigoual Causses Cévennes, Saint-André-de-Valborgne

les quais, 30940 Saint-André-de-Valborgne

standredevalborgne@sudcevennes.com

Tel : 04 66 60 32 11

<https://www.sudcevennes.com>



Source



CC Causses Aigoual Cévennes Terres Solidaires

<http://www.causses-aigoual-cevennes.fr/>



Parc national des Cévennes

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

On your path...

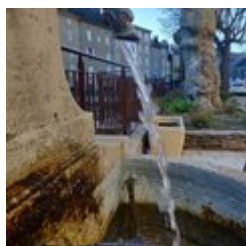


The village of St André de Valborgne (A)

As you stroll along the quay above the river, you can still see the handsome bourgeois houses dating from the silk boom. If you look around, former spinning mills and industrial buildings dedicated to silk farming can still be seen in the landscape. A little lower down, opposite the 16th century château, you can listen to

Bernadette Lafont on the Camisard saga in and after 1702. As you reach the square again, quench your thirst at the fountain and have a look inside the Romanesque church (12th century).

Attribution : © Béatrice Galzin



One spring, five fountains (B)

This fountain is one of Saint-André's five public fountains, all of which are supplied by the same spring (its water is thus the same as in the Fontaine du Griffon). Before houses were connected to mains water, there were many more fountains on this side of the quay.

Attribution : © Béatrice Galzin



Two in one (C)

This cobbled path going uphill is a calade. It is not only a path but also a brook, allowing rainwater to be evacuated. Caution: slippery when wet!

Attribution : © Béatrice Galzin



Well-supplied (D)

Cévenol gardens are supplied by béals (little canals), which bring water from rivers or springs to cultivated land. The latter is usually laid out in bancels (terraces). By retaining the soil, the low walls make it possible to have level plots and deeper soils. Water can seep into the ground slowly and remain there for longer.

Attribution : © Béatrice Galzin



Fish and other animals... (E)

On the river banks, a pretty white, grey and black bird paces up and down looking for insects, bopping its long tail up and down: the white wagtail. The more colourful grey wagtail is often seen alongside it. The white-throated dipper resembles a blackbird with a big white stain on its breast. It often disappears underwater to hunt insect larvae. Trout, which like the same prey, also live in the Gardon, where they keep anglers happy.

Attribution : © Régis Descamps



The gardonnades (F)

The village benefits from the water that the Gardon brings – but it also has to put up with the river's sporadic bad moods. Abundant rain can rapidly raise river levels. It is often in autumn that the torrent overflows its banks. The worst floods can have dramatic consequences in both material and human terms. Many can still remember the floods of September 1958 and 2002, which caused much damage.

Attribution : © Béatrice Galzin



Water! (G)

The Griffon fountain is known for its pure water, which will quench any walker's thirst. In the old days, the whole neighbourhood used it not only for drinking but also for cooking, washing, washing clothes, watering plants, etc. The fountain was not only a supply point but also an important meeting-point in village life.

Attribution : © Béatrice Galzin



The age of silk (H)

From the 19th century onwards, the silk industry developed in the Cévennes: tanneries gave way to spinning mills. The mills used water not only to treat the silkworm cocoons (which were boiled to prepare the silk) but also for the steam-driven spinning machines. In the second half of the 19th century, diseases strongly reduced silk production, which was also subject to competition from foreign silks and then from artificial silk. The silk industry went under in 1965.

Attribution : © Béatrice Galzin



The tanners' district (I)

La Calquière district gets its name from that of the ditches in which the tanners soaked their animal skins with limestone, which is called cauç or calç in Occitan. All along the Gardon there were tanneries because its acidic water was good for rinsing the skins, which was indispensable for obtaining high quality products.

Attribution : © Béatrice Galzin



Traces of giants? (J)

"Giant's cauldrons" have formed in the rock at the base of the waterfall. These regular, rounded cavities are only created in rapidly flowing waters. They are caused by the repeated friction of stones caught in a depression and moved by swirling currents.

Attribution : © Béatrice Galzin



The Château de Nogaret (K)

Built in the 11th century, the Château de Nogaret stood on the only road linking Saint-André de Valborgne with Le Pompidou. It is believed to have been constructed to serve as a stronghold and to defend the Vallée Borgne. It was set alight in 1628 during the war between the Duke of Rohan and Louis XIII, and again in 1704 by the Camisards, before being rebuilt in the 18th century. This private property still belongs to the Manoel de Nogaret family.

"This small château is one of the finest examples of the fortified manor houses built towards the end of the Middle Ages by minor local lords wanting to free themselves, at least symbolically, from domination by their feudal overlords." (Isabelle Darnas - Les châteaux médiévaux en Cévennes).

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas



The sweet chestnut : a food tree (L)

You are in a grafted chestnut orchard, which means that the trees were maintained and their nuts harvested by locals to be eaten in the family. The enormous trees around you are about 300 years old.

The chestnuts were dried in a clède, a small building on two levels that was located either close to the dwellings or right inside the forest. The clède would have been in use for an entire month in autumn to ensure that the whole, wood-dried chestnuts could be preserved for a year.

The chestnut tree was so vital in local subsistence farming that it was also called l'arbre à pain (the bread tree); it was also used to make beams, barrels, baskets, trunk-beehives and more, feed livestock and provide their bedding.

Attribution : Béatrice Galzin



Lique Ser (M)

Lique Ser path goes up to the famous Corniche des Cévennes, a ridge between the two departments of Gard and Lozère. This road, which is busy these days in summer because of its superb views, has not always been a holiday address.

In the days of Louis XIII and XIV, this was the route of the dragonnades and the repression of Protestantism by the King's army after the Revocation of the Edict (the billeting of deliberately ill-disciplined soldiers in Protestant households) of Nantes. This ridge gave the soldiers, known as the King's dragoons, strategic viewpoints. The road was abandoned from the 19th century onwards. In 1930, after lengthy renovations, it was opened to traffic again, becoming a major tourist route

Attribution : Béatrice Galzin



A grapevine ravine in schist country (N)

Schist (slate) is omnipresent all around you. Dark, with silvery reflections and a reddish oxidation due to naturally occurring iron, schist is the local building material par excellence. It is the perfect material for covering roofs. It can be turned into solid cobblestoned tracks called calades, where the stones are arranged tightly against each other on-edge. The dry-stone walls that you can see almost everywhere are also built from schist. These walls have largely withstood the test of time, though less so over the past decades because of a lack of maintenance. In the old days, they were regularly repaired, since they retained the terraced cropland for subsistence crops, including the indispensable sweet chestnut trees and, here, grapevines.

Attribution : Béatrice Galzin