

Pont de Mousse

Gard



L'Arre (Nathalie Thomas)



Many small waterways and geological features punctuate this walk.

Useful information

Practice : Pédestre

Duration : 1 h 30

Length : 3.6 km

Trek ascent : 145 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Boucle

Themes : Histoire et culture, Faune et flore, Eau et géologie, Transports en commun

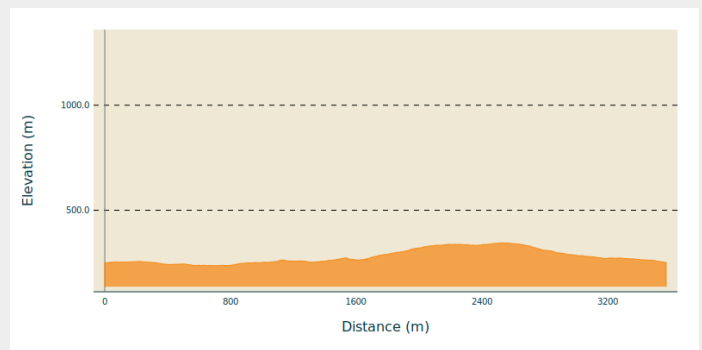
Trek

Departure : Avèze

Arrival : Avèze

Cities : 1. Avèze

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 239 m Max elevation 354 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 at " **AVÈZE** " walk towards " **Le Vigan** " via :

1. "**Château de Montcalm**"
2. "**Vieux Pont**". A hundred metres after « **Vieux Pont** », take the path on the right that leads to « **Pont de Mousse** » .
3. At "**Pont de Mousse**" continue to "**Le Cayla**" ,
4. Then "**Grotte de la Vierge**",
5. "**Chemin de Candiac**",
6. And "**Route de Pommiers**", and "**AVÈZE** ". At the road, turn right to return to the parking area.

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 village of Avèze (A)
 The white-throated dipper (C)

The Château de Montcalm (B)
 The Pont de Mousse (moss bridge) (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. Please close any gates and barriers behind you.

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: AVÈZE - Château Montcalm**

Access

Take the D 110E or D 239.

Advised parking

As you exit Avèze towards Pommier

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



CC du Pays Viganois

<http://www.cc-paysviganois.fr/>

On your path...



The village of Avèze (A)

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 (B)

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



The white-throated dipper (C)

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) (D)

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