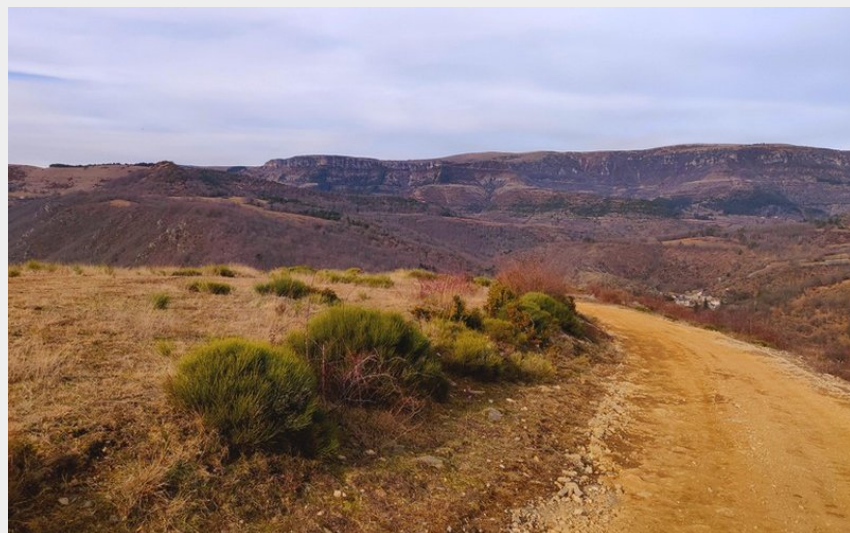


From valley to valley - between Gardon and Tarnon (day 2)

Gard



Retour à Rousses (Béatrice Galzin)



Enjoy the cool of the river in the village of St-André, built at the bottom of the valley, before tackling the uphill section towards Le Pompidou. The old track, which once joined up with the King's road, has a regular gradient.

Bézuc! Finally ! From here you have beautiful views over Barre des Cévennes and the Vallée Française.

You next arrive at L'Hospitalet, where the dirt track that starts on the opposite side of the road will reveal the rocky cliffs of the Causse Méjean and the blockfield of Nîmes-le-Vieux. Then go downhill to Rousses.

Useful information

Practice : Pédestre

Duration : 7 h

Length : 19.2 km

Trek ascent : 1015 m

Difficulty : Hard

Themes : Milieu naturel, Faune et flore, Architecture et village, Histoire et culture, Agriculture et élevage, Eau et géologie, Causses et Cévennes / UNESCO

Construit en fond de vallée, le village de St-André permet de profiter de la fraîcheur de la rivière avant d'attaquer la montée vers Le Pompidou. La pente est régulière par cet ancien chemin qui rejoignait autrefois la route royale. Bézuc ! Enfin la maison de Bézuc ! De là, une belle vue sur Barre des Cévennes et la vallée Française.

Ensuite vous arrivez à l'Hospitalet, le chemin de terre qui par de l'autre côté de la route, vous dévoile les barres rocheuses du causse Méjean et le chaos de Nîmes-le-Vieux. Puis descente sur Rousses.

Trek

Departure : St-André de Valborgne

Arrival : Rousses

Markings : — Balisage jaune et mobilier signalétique — GR® — GRP®

Cities : 1. Saint-André-de-Valborgne

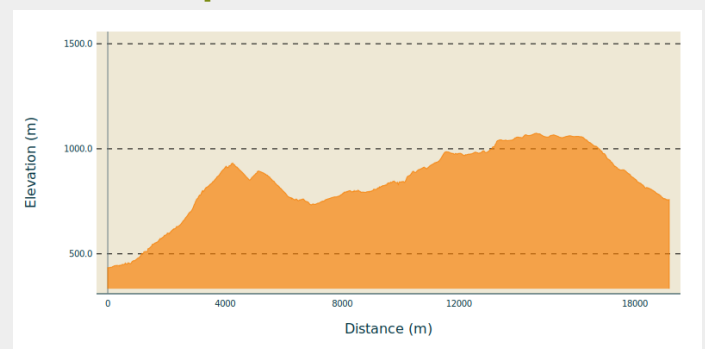
2. Le Pompidou

3. Vebron

4. Rousses

5. Bassurels

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 438 m Max elevation 1070 m

Starting from St-André de Valborgne, walk towards “Le Pompidou” on the GRP® long-distance path Tour de la Haute-Vallée Borgne (yellow and red waymarks).

1. At the reservoir at Le Serre, take the path that goes uphill.
2. Once on the track, go downhill opposite through the forest of conifers, then turn left onto the path. Pass the houses “Folie” and “Le Pompidou”.
3. At Le Pompidou, go uphill through the village on the left (D9 road) to the fountain, turn right and walk to “Tartabissac”.
4. Then “Bézuc” and “L’Hospitalet”, always following the red and yellow waymarks.
5. At “L’Hospitalet”, cross the D9 and take the dirt path opposite (GR®7-67), waymarked red and white.
6. At point 1058 on the map, take the path on your right that takes you back to the village of Rousses.

On your path...



The village of St André de Valborgne (A)
 The gardonnades (C)
 Two in one (E)
 Water! (G)
 The tanners' district (I)
 The Château de Nogaret (K)
 Lique Ser (M)

One spring, five fountains (B)
 Well-supplied (D)
 🐾 Fish and other animals... (F)
 The age of silk (H)
 Traces of giants? (J)
 The sweet chestnut : a food tree (L)
 Le Pompidou (N)

All useful information



Is in the midst of the park

The national park is an unrestricted natural area but subjected to regulations which must be known by all visitors.



Advices

Avoid the section from the Col de Tartabisac pass to Bézuc after heavy rain : rivers and brooks will be flooded.

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. Please close any gates and barriers behind you.

How to come ?

Access

D907 St-André de Valborgne.

Advised parking

Car parks in the village

Information desks

Information center Le Pompidou

La poste, 48400 Le Pompidou

cipnc@orange.fr

Tel : 04 66 60 31 26



Office de tourisme Des Cévennes au mont Lozère

le Quai, 48220 Le Pont de Montvert sud mont-Lozère

info@cevennes-montlozere.com

Tel : 04 66 45 81 94

<https://www.cevennes-montlozere.com/>



Tourism'house and national Parc at Florac

Place de l'ancienne gare, N106, 48400 Florac-trois-rivières

info@cevennes-parcnational.fr

Tel : 04 66 45 01 14

<https://www.cevennes-gorges-du-tarn.com>



Tourism & national parc'house

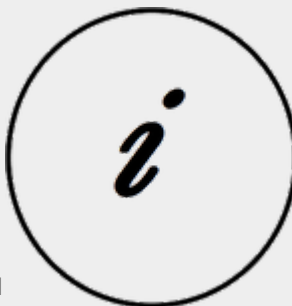
Col de la Serreyrède, 30570 Val d'Aigoual

maisondeilaigoual@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.caussesaignoualcevennes.fr/>

On your path...

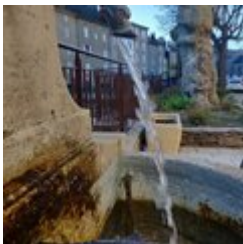


The village of St André de Valborgne (A)

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



The gardonnades (C)

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



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



Two in one (E)

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



Fish and other animals... (F)

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



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



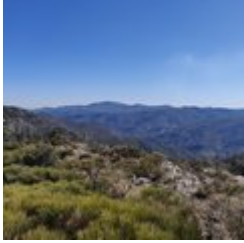
The sweet chestnut : a food tree (L)

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



Le Pompidou (N)

Le Pompidou, like Saint-Roman de Tousque, owes its development to its location on the Corniche des Cévennes road. From the 17th century onwards, this former mule track carried substantial trade, with mule cart drivers bringing up salt, wine and dried fish from southern France to the Gévaudan, taking grains and cloth down from the uplands, and exporting the silk and chestnuts of the Cévennes. You can still see two buildings, the former inn (Le Cheval Blanc) and the Chapeau Rouge staging post, where travellers changed carriage horses.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas