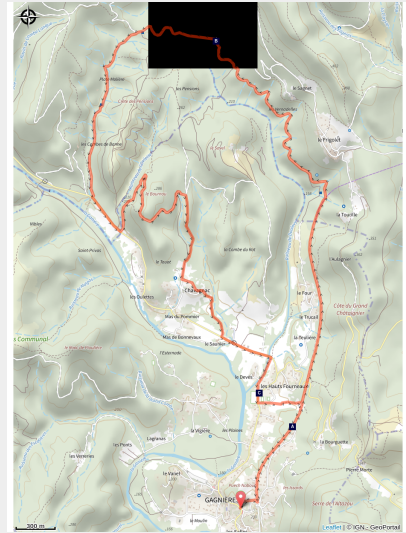


# Viaduct of Doulovy

Piémont cévenol nord - Gagnières



Le viaduc de Doulovy (© J.F.Raulet)



*This walk follows the disused railway across a viaduct and through a mediaeval hamlet.*

## Useful information

Practice : Hiking on foot

Duration : 4 h

Length : 12.5 km

Trek ascent : 272 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Loop

Themes : Agriculture and livestock farming, History and culture

# Trek

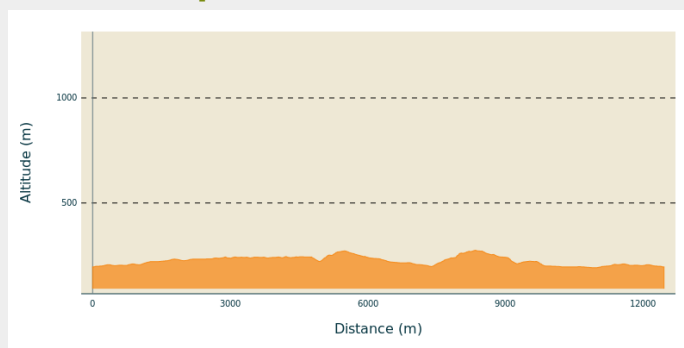
**Departure** : Gagnières, at the mairie (town hall)

**Arrival** : Gagnières, at the mairie (town hall)

**Markings** :  Yellow waymarks

**Cities** : 1. Gagnières  
2. Saint-Paul-le-Jeune  
3. Banne

## Altimetric profile



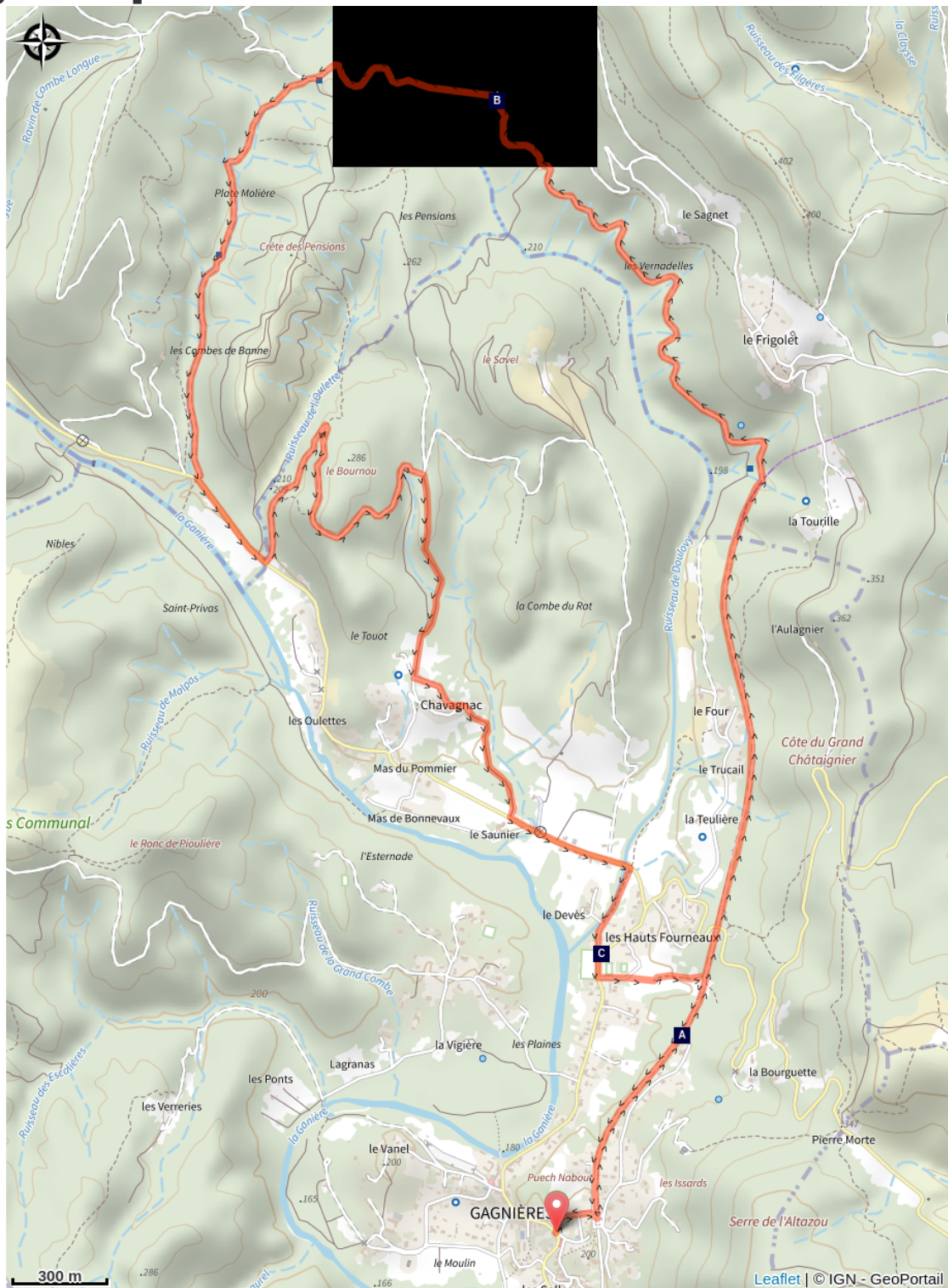
Min elevation 192 m Max elevation 275 m

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:

From "**GAGNIÈRES**" head to "**VIADUC DE DOULOVY**" via "**Gagnières-Sous le Puech**", "**Ancienne Voie Ferrée**" and "**Les Hauts Fourneaux**", "**La Maissonnette**" (where you cross into the Ardèche department: different signage system), "**Tunnel de la Gadilhe**" and "**La Vernadelle**". Then follow "**Chavagnac**" via "**Bois des Bartres**", "**Les Combes de Banne**", then return to the Gard via "**Les Costes**" and "**Le Saumier**". Return to "**GAGNIÈRES**" via "**Complexe Sainte Barbe**", "**Les Hauts Fourneaux**", "**Ancienne Voie Ferrée**" and "**Sous le Puech**".

This hike is taken from the guidebook **Cévennes Haute Vallée de la Cèze**, published by the Communauté de communes Cèze Cévennes as part of the collection Espaces Naturels Gardois and the label Gard Pleine Nature.

# On your path...



Disused railway (A)



The viaduct of Doulovy (B)



Les Hauts-Fourneaux district (C)

# 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 all gates and barriers behind you.

## **How to come ?**

### Transports

#### **Bus stop:** Ganières Stade

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](http://www.laregion.fr)

### Access

From St-Ambroix take the D 51, then the D 130 to Gagnières

### Advised parking

Car park at the mairie (town hall)

## Information desks

### **Tourism office CezeCévennes, Bessèges**

14 rue de la République, 30160 Bessèges

ot.besseges@gmail.com

Tel : 04 66 25 08 60

<https://www.tourisme-ceze-cevennes.com/>



### **Tourism office Cèze-Cévennes Saint-Ambroix**

Place de l'ancien Temple, 30500 Saint-Ambroix

ot.stambroix@gmail.com

Tel : 04 66 24 33 36

<https://www.tourisme-ceze-cevennes.com/>



## Source



CC Cèze Cévennes

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



Parc national des Cévennes

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



# On your path...

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## ⚠ Disused railway (A)

The train used to call at the former mining site of Gagnières to transport coal and metal products. It connected to the Alès-Bessèges line at Robiac, linking the Gard and Ardèche departments, and, particularly, Alès and Paris, via Le Teil for passengers. The tracks have since been dismantled and the route has become a shaded walk.

Attribution : © S.M.

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## ⚠ The viaduct of Doulovy (B)

This viaduct is both monumental and decisive. The Alès-Bessèges railway was built using private finance and inaugurated in 1857. The viaduct of Doulovy stands at the confluence of the river of that name with the Merle, and bears witness to the pressing need to connect the mining area by rail, even if it meant moving or straddling mountains. To avoid an excessive gradient, this giant bridge – one of the three largest viaducts in the Cévennes – needed a long list of superlatives: 235 m long, 2.35 m wide and 24 arches, of which the highest measures 35 m. Crossing this viaduct, now pedestrianised, is a true voyage.

Attribution : © J.F. Raulet

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## ⚠ Les Hauts-Fourneaux district (C)

Les Hauts-Fourneaux (the Blast Furnaces), previously called Iraille Woods, owes its name to the presence of an iron-smelting site. The blast furnace has the shape of two tree trunks joined at their base. The upper opening is for the top charging system, the lower cavity is called the 'casthouse'. The furnace, built out of firebricks, was first loaded with coal. Once the fire was lit, it was accelerated by a machine blowing air into the furnace. Iron ore, flux (which facilitates fusion) and coal were introduced through the top of the furnace in turn. The pig iron (iron and carbon) thus obtained accumulated in the casthouse. Once that was full, you removed the clay plug that closed the opening in the lower part, and the liquid iron flowed out onto sand channels where it cooled down to form blocks called pig moulds.