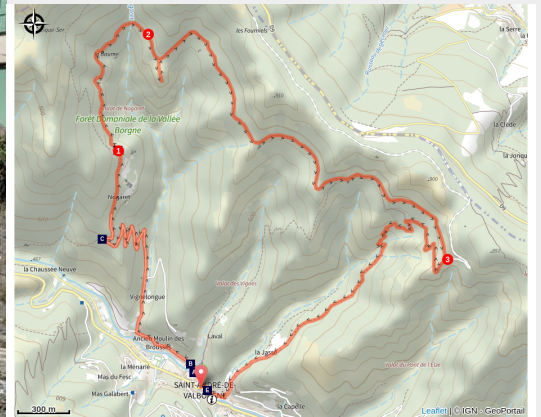


A steep climb

Aigoual - Saint-André-de-Valborgne



le Village (Nathalie Thomas)



A family walk exploring Cévenol heritage, with handsome views onto the Vallée Borgne.

Explore the village of St-André de Valborgne with its 5 large silk spinning-mills, the dignified and understated Château de Nogaret (12th c.) overlooking the valley, and the ruins of the former foresters' house of Rougeiresque. The downhill section is on the old track that used to connect the village with the King's road (now the Corniche road).

Useful information

Practice : Hiking on foot

Duration : 3 h 30

Length : 9.8 km

Trek ascent : 509 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Loop

Themes : Agriculture and livestock farming, Architecture and village, History and culture

Trek

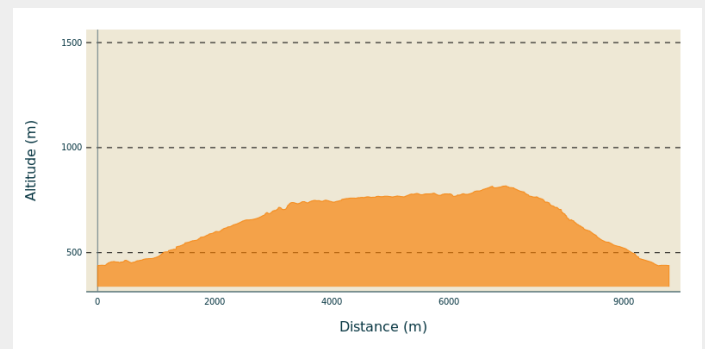
Departure : Saint-André-de-Valborgne

Arrival : Saint-André-de-Valborgne

Markings :  Yellow waymarks

Cities : 1. Saint-André-de-Valborgne

Altimetric profile



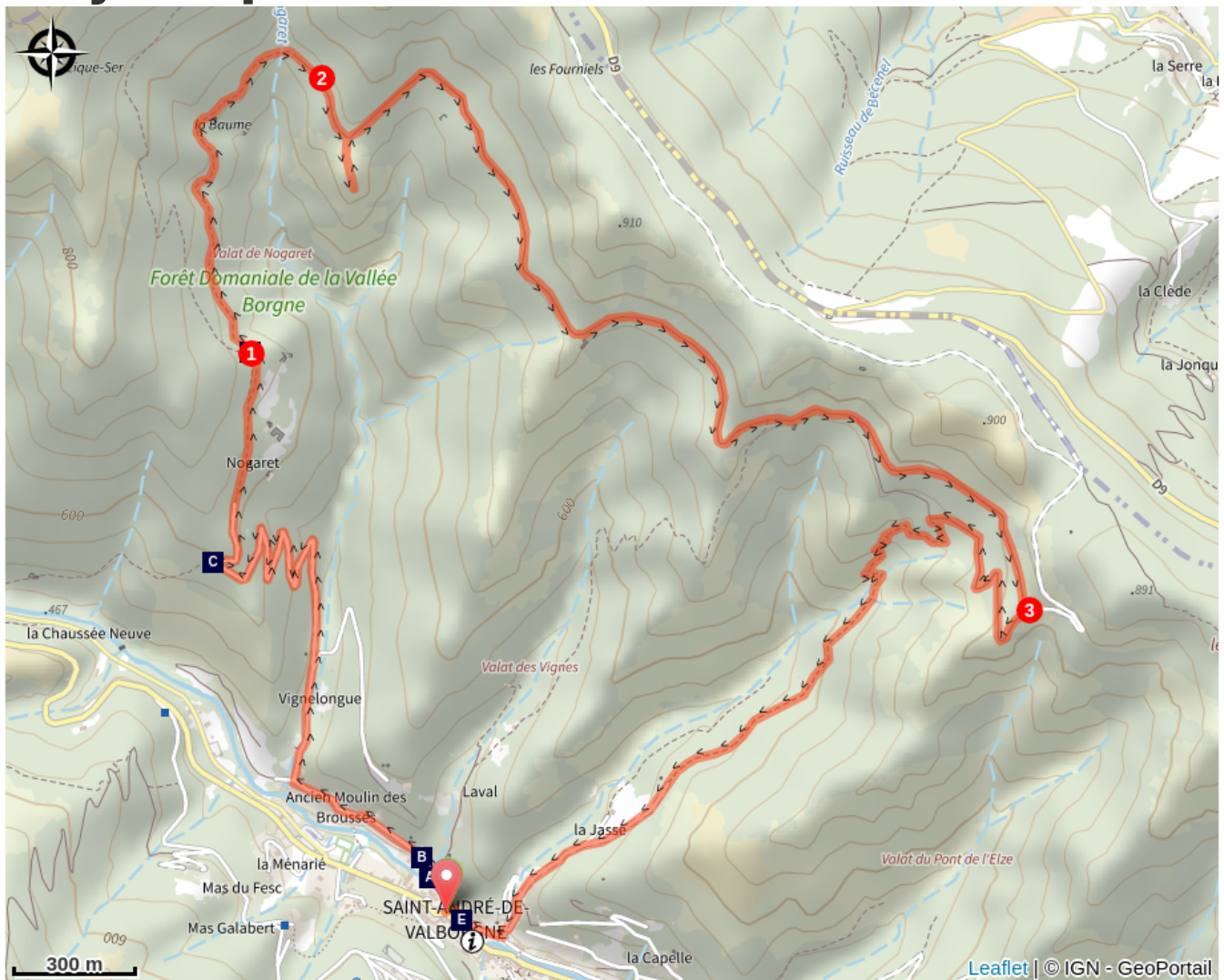
Min elevation 438 m Max elevation 818 m

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 between quotation marks :

Starting at **"Au vieux pont"**, cross the stream and turn left towards **"Réservoir du Serre"** via **"Les vignes"** and **"Vignelongue"**, first on the small tarred road to its very end and then on the small track on the left.

1. At **"Réservoir du Serre"**, go right to walk along the basin, follow the path into the chestnut grove and to the footbridge over the stream, and then go uphill to the track above.
2. Follow the track to **"Chemin de Castanet"** passing in front of the signpost to **"Rougeiresque"**.
3. At **"Chemin de Castanet"** head to "Saint-André-de-Valborgne" via **"Le valat de la Jasse"**. Go downhill to the village via **"Le Temple"**.

On your path...



-  The age of silk (A)
-  The Château de Nogaret (C)
-  The gardonnades (E)
-  The tanners' district (B)
-  The sweet chestnut : a food tree (D)

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 St-Jean-du-Gard, to St-André de Valborgne on the D907 via L'Estréchure and Saumane.

Advised parking

In the village of 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 age of silk (A)

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.

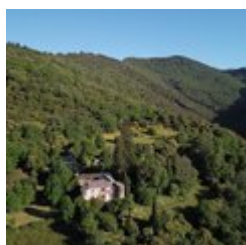
Attribution : © Béatrice Galzin



The tanners' district (B)

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



The Château de Nogaret (C)

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 : Sabine Keller



🌰 The sweet chestnut : a food tree (D)

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



🌊 The gardonnades (E)

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.

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