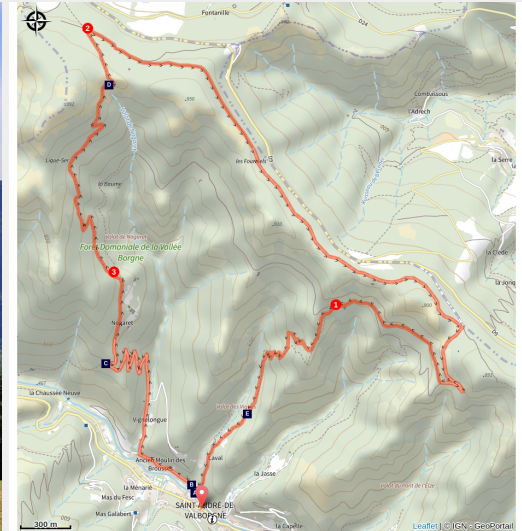


Lique Ser

Aigoual - Saint-André-de-Valborgne



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 Pompidou and St-André de Valborgne.

Useful information

Practice : Hiking on foot

Duration : 4 h

Length : 11.8 km


Trek ascent : 605 m

Difficulty : Medium

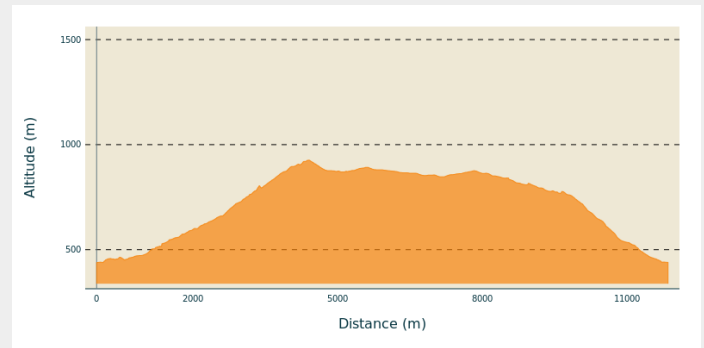
Type : Loop

Themes : Architecture and village, History and culture

Trek

Departure : St-André-de-Valborgne
Arrival : St-André-de-Valborgne
Markings :  Yellow waymarks
Cities : 1. Saint-André-de-Valborgne

Altimetric profile



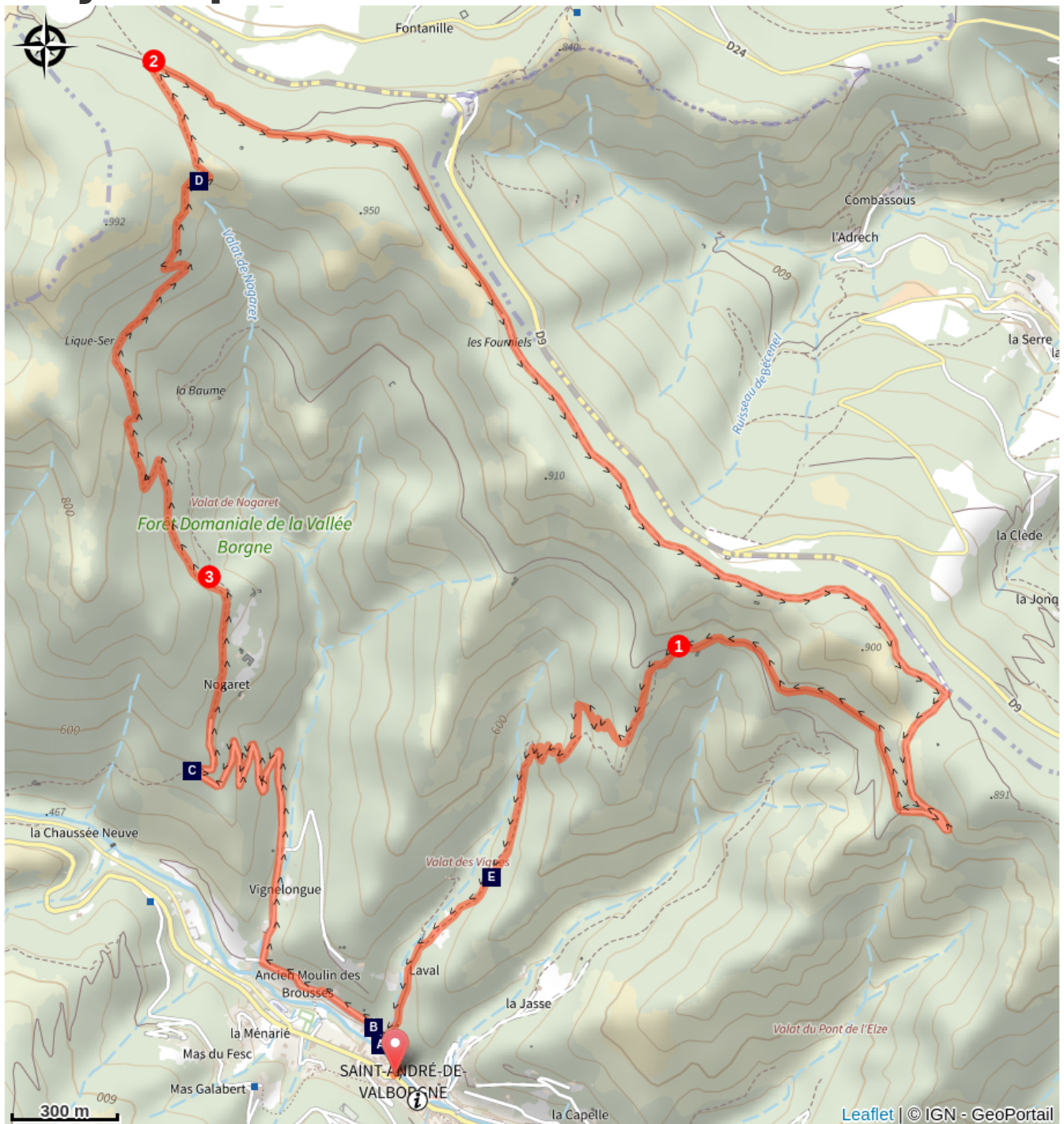
Min elevation 438 m Max elevation 926 m




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 age of silk (A)
-  The Château de Nogaret (C)
-  A grapevine ravine in schist country (E)

-  The tanners' district (B)
-  Lique Ser (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 Florac, towards St-André de Valborgne on the D907 through the villages of Vébron, Les Vanels 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
office-du-tourisme-cause@wanadoo.fr
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

vallee.borgne@wanadoo.fr
Tel : 04 66 60 32 11
<https://www.sudcevennes.com>



Source



CC Causses Aigoual Cévennes Terres Solidaires

<http://www.caussesaignoualcevennes.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



🏔️ Lique Ser (D)

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 (E)

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