The hosiers

Aigoual



Village d'Arre (Nathalie Thomas)



A pretty walk to the viewpoint at Lasalle that helps you explore local heritage.

Useful information

Practice : Hiking on foot

Duration : 2 h

Length : 6.1 km

Trek ascent : 278 m

Difficulty : Easy

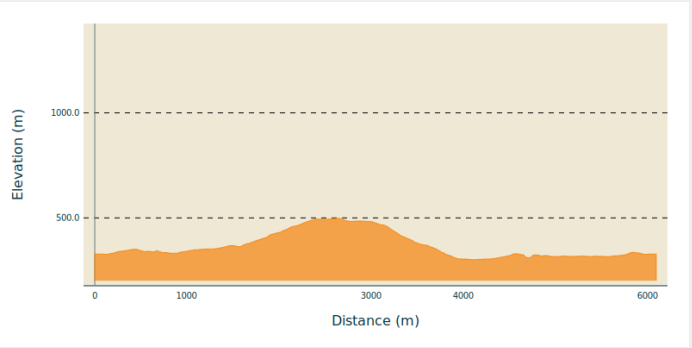
Type : Loop

Themes : Architecture and village, History and culture

Trek

Departure : Information panel ARRE
Arrival : Information panel ARRE
Cities : 1. Arre
2. Bez-et-Esparon

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 301 m Max elevation 498 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:

Start at the former train station at the signpost **“Foyer d'Arre”**. Walk towards **“Arre-Mairie”**.

1. Then turn right to climb towards **“La Murette”**.
2. Continue to **"Campsavy"**, **"Laussou"** and **"Lasalle"**.
3. At **“Lasalle”**, optional there-and-back into the village to reach the viewpoint.
4. Then go downhill to **“Bez”**, **“Pont de la Grave"** and **“Viaduc Lavassac”**. At the viaduct, there-and-back to the viewpoint over the village and its surroundings.
5. Return to the car park along the banks of the Arre via **“Arre-Pont Vieux”**,
6. **"Arre-Mairie”**, **“Foyer d'Arre”**.

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 Lavassac viaduct (A)

The former orphanage (B)

The hosiery industry and Arre (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 any gates and barriers behind you.

How to come ?

Access

From Le Vigan on the D999, towards Bez-et Esparon, Arre.

Advised parking

Former train station

Information desks

Tourism office Cévennes and Navacelles, Le Vigan
Maison de pays, place du Marché, BP 21,
30120 Le Vigan



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Source

CC du Pays Viganais

http://www.cc-paysviganais.fr/

Parc national des Cévennes

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

On your path...



The Lavassac viaduct (A)

This steel bridge with a span of 80 metres and a weight of 418 tonnes was conceived by Gustave Eiffel in the late 19th century for the railway. A landowner whose parcels lay below the viaduct is believed to have won a lawsuit for damages because of the shade thrown by the bridge... Today, the section between Arre, Bez et Esparon and Molières-Cavaillac has been transformed into a walking and cycling path, accessible for non-motorised users, whether children or adults: 3.5 km to enjoy en famille, without danger, with little elevation gain and with two tunnels lit by solar energy.

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas



The former orphanage (B)

At the foot of the village, on the left, a building overlooking the river has a particular style. This is the former orphanage, which closed down in the early 20th century. Sainte Anne was home to poor young girls without families who mainly came from the Aveyron department. They worked in the village factory to unthread the silk it onto the spools. After work, they had to clean the orphanage and chapel as well as take care of the pigs and poultry. On the site of the orphanage there was a chapel, Sainte-Marie d'Arre. By popular demand, it was rededicated to Saint-Blaise, patron saint of weavers and carders.

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas



The hosiery industry and Arre (C)

Shortly after the church, on the left, you will see the Brun family residence and the dyeing factory. The railings of the factory gates came from the Château des Tuileries in Paris, which had been burned down in 1870. The village’s prosperity was linked to the hosiery industry and the Brun d'Arre company. This hosiery business, the oldest in the region, was first recorded in 1740. In the 1880s, the factory’s looms were mechanised to produce silk hosiery. Modernisation continued with the purchase of heavy-duty looms for cotton articles. In 1906, the company created the first brand of silk stockings, Lys stockings, which became internationally known. A fleur-de-lys was embroidered onto the stockings by workers working at home. In 1924, there were 600 of these workers. The combustible necessary for the industry to develop was supplied by the coal mines in Cavaillac, 7 km away.

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