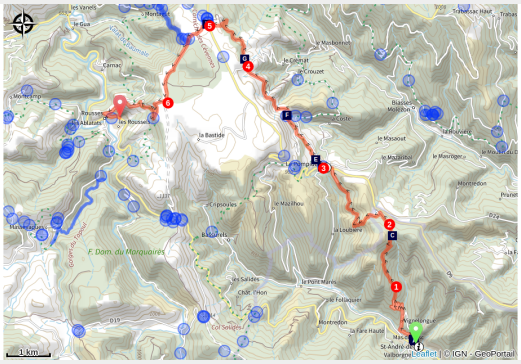
From valley to valley – between Gardon and Tarnon (day 2)

Aigoual



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 : Hiking on foot

Duration : 7 h

Length : 19.2 km

Trek ascent : 1015 m

Difficulty : Difficult

Type : Step

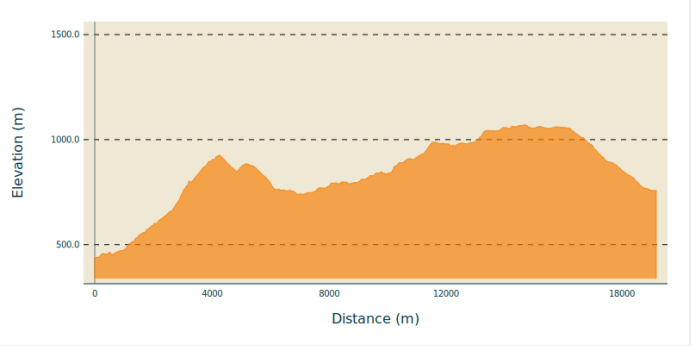
Themes : Agriculture and livestock farming, Architecture and village, Causses and Cévennes / UNESCO, Fauna and flora, Forest, History and culture, Water and geology

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 : GR (long-distance hiking path) GRP (regional long-distance hiking path) Yellow waymarks
Cities : 1. Saint-André-de-Valborgne
2. Le Pompidou
3. Vebron
4. Rousses

Altimetric profile

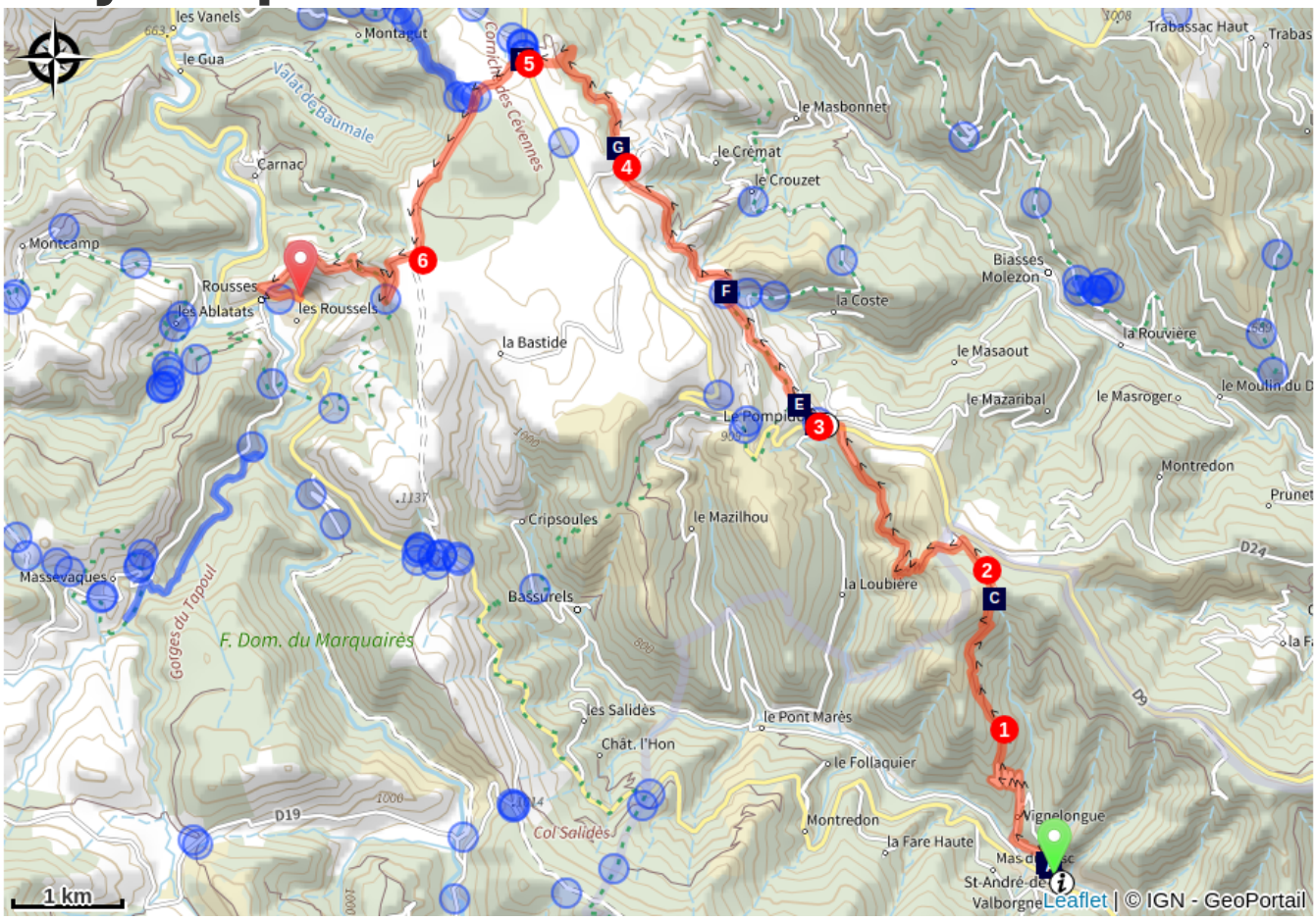


Min elevation 438 m Max elevation 1070 m

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 age of silk (A)
The tanners’ district (B)
Lique Ser (C)
Le Pompidou (D)
Small buildings (E)
Contact (F)
Schist, limestone or granite (G)
Ash trees (H)

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

maisondelaigoual@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.caussesaigoualcevennes.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



Lique Ser (C)

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 (D)

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



Small buildings (E)

The small buildings you see dotted here and there are jasses (from jas: place where livestock sleeps), sheepfolds of times gone by. There used to be at least 20 between Tartabissac and Bézuc. From the first warm days to 6 December, livestock would spend the night here, and their owners would come up during the day to watch them. An old saying goes, “No livestock in the chestnut groves before the sixth of December”. 6 December was the date of the fair in Florac when the local chestnuts were sold. Today Bézuc hosts 200 sheep for 8 months of the year.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



Contact (F)

At the Col de Tartabisac pass, there is a clear limit between the two bedrocks: on the left, the limestone plateau; on the right, a schist slope. The two rocks are in contact at a geological fault. A layer of very wet sandstone sits at the level of the meadows, at the foot of the limestone. This is where the water that has infiltrated via the thick layers of the Can plateau re-emerges.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



Schist, limestone or granite (G)

From the track, you can make out the hamlets on the side of the valley at the foot of the Can: Roumassel, Le Crouzet, Le Crémat, Le Masbonnet. The land stretching from the valley floor to the plateau belongs to these hamlets, including chestnut groves, pasture and parcels for growing grains. After Bézuc, the bedrock is partly schist, where broom and heather grow, partly limestone, which is linked to the presence of the carline thistle. In a meadow beyond the beech forest, you can see blocks of granite, which stem from a vein linking Mont Aigoual to Mont Lozère. The ruiniform rocks on the plateau were shaped by water, which infiltrates fractures in the rock and dissolves the dolomite that they are made of.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



Ash trees (H)

Ash trees, like the ones that border the path, like cool and damp environments. They were planted alongside paths by locals because ash branches, cut towards the end of summer, provided additional fodder for livestock.

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas