

Saint André par la Corniche - Road bike circuit #13

Vallées cévenoles



La Vallée Française (Béatrice Galzin)



This circuit goes through the Borgne valley and on the Corniche des Cévennes road. It has panoramic viewpoints and meanders on the valley bottom along the Gardon de St-Jean river.

How satisfying, on arriving at Le Pompidou, to have a view over the entire Vallée Française and even further !

On this legendary road, Le Pompidou and St-Roman de Tousque have been rest stops for travellers since the days of long journeys in horse-drawn carriages.

Useful information

Practice : Road bike

Duration : 2 h 30

Length : 35.0 km

Trek ascent : 956 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Loop

Trek

Departure : St-André de Valborgne

Arrival : St-André de Valborgne

Cities : 1. Moissac-Vallée-Française

2. Saint-André-de-Valborgne

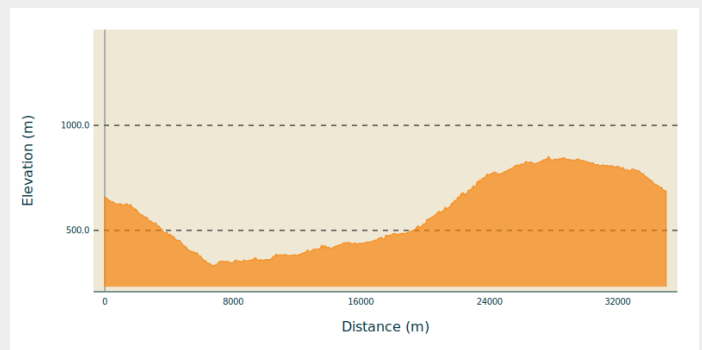
3. Saumane

4. Le Pompidou

5. Gabriac

6. Sainte-Croix-Vallée-Française

Altimetric profile

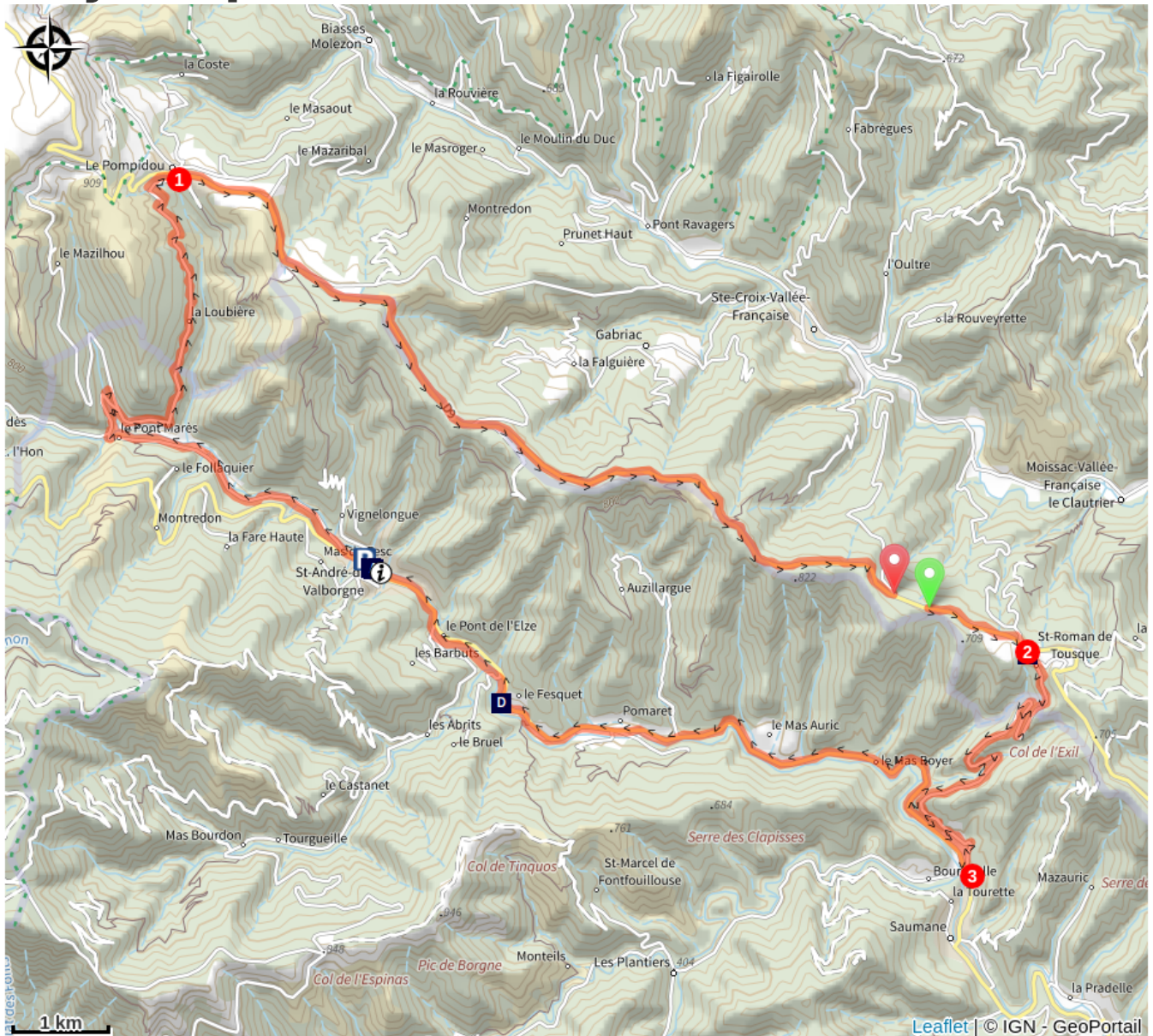


Min elevation 332 m Max elevation 851 m

From St-André de Valborgne, towards Le Pompidou on the D10 and D61.

1. At Le Pompidou, towards St-Roman de Tousque on the D9 (Corniche des Cévennes road).
2. At St-Roman de Tousque, go downhill into the Borgne valley on the D39, towards Saumane.
3. In the valley, go back uphill on the D907 to return to St-André de Valborgne.

On your path...



The village of St André de
Valborgne (A)
Saint-Roman de Tousque (C)

One spring, five fountains (B)
Cévenol housing (D)

All useful information

Advices

Before committing yourself to a circuit, ensure that it is suitable for your activity level and ability. Respect traffic laws and other road users; stay in control of your speed and trajectory. Make sure to be seen and travel in single file when in a group. Remember that the weather changes quickly in the mountains. Take enough water. Safe trip !

How to come ?

Access

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

From Florac, take the D907 towards St-Jean du Gard, through the villages of Vébron, Les Vanels and Rousses, to reach St-André de Valborgne.

Advised parking

Car park in the village

Information desks

Tourism & national parc'house

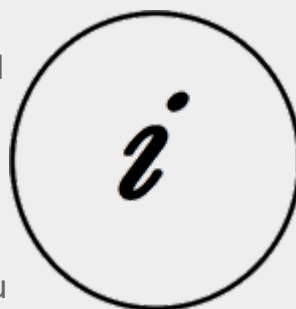
Col de la Serreyrède, 30570 Val d'Aigoual

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)



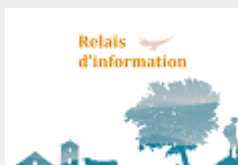
Tourism office Mont Aigoual Causses Cévennes, Saint-André-de-Valborgne

les quais, 30940 Saint-André-de-Valborgne

standredevalborgne@sudcevennes.com

Tel : 04 66 60 32 11

<https://www.sudcevennes.com>





On your path...



The village of St André de Valborgne (A)

As you stroll along the quay above the river, you can still see the handsome bourgeois houses dating from the silk boom. If you look around, former spinning mills and industrial buildings dedicated to silk farming can still be seen in the landscape. A little lower down, opposite the 16th century château, you can listen to

Bernadette Lafont on the Camisard saga in and after 1702. As you reach the square again, quench your thirst at the fountain and have a look inside the Romanesque church (12th century).

Attribution : © Béatrice Galzin



One spring, five fountains (B)

This fountain is one of Saint-André's five public fountains, all of which are supplied by the same spring (its water is thus the same as in the Fontaine du Griffon). Before houses were connected to mains water, there were many more fountains on this side of the quay.

Attribution : © Béatrice Galzin



Saint-Roman de Tousque (C)

The village of St-Roman de Tousque, which is part of the municipality of Moissac Vallée Française, owes its development to its location on the Corniche des Cévennes road, which facilitated the expansion of trade. In the 17th and 18th century, the village had a large number of artisans and shopkeepers. During the Camisard War, a company of the King's troops was stationed here. The Camisard Lafleur came to sing psalms in front of the Catholic church, accompanied by six men. Believing themselves to be under attack, the soldiers barricaded themselves in, leaving the Camisards free to torch the church. The 19th century saw several Protestant commemorations.

It was in St-Roman de Tousque that the hymn of the Cévenol protestants, La Cévenole, was sung for the first time, during the bicentenary of the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, in 1885.

Attribution : OT des Cévennes au Mont Lozère



Cévenol housing (D)

Houses normally occupied the centre of the cultivated area. Built from schist, they were tall and narrow to save the level ground for crops. When houses needed expanding, people either added another storey to existing buildings or built a new wing parallel to the contour lines. Hamlets were always constructed near water sources and often at mid-slope because the valley floors are susceptible to brutal flooding as well as difficult to access. Good exposure to sunlight was not a decisive factor in choosing sites.

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas