

# ARDECHE BE AMAZED

ARDECHE PRESS FILE 2020

[www.ardeche-guide.com](http://www.ardeche-guide.com)







# ARDÈCHE, BE AMAZED !

The Ardèche can be summed up in three words: passion, beauty and talent. Prehistoric man came to the region as long as 36,000 years ago and laid the first foundations of art on the walls of the Chauvet-Pont d'Arc Cave, classified as a Unesco World Heritage Site. It took passion and genius to tame the wild and awe-inspiring landscapes of Ardèche, such as the Ardèche Gorges, Mont-Gerbier-de-Jonc and the mountains, and the Eyrieux valley. These little corners of paradise are also part of a precious and fragile local heritage that all who live and work here are more determined than ever to respect and conserve.

Words are not enough to describe Ardèche, you have to experience it, by canoe or kayak, bike or via ferrata, by exploring some of the charming medieval villages perched on the mountainsides or by taking a detour to some of the fortresses that guard over the Rhône Valley and its prestigious wines.

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# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Location

Ardèche is located where Provence begins, in the south-east of France, along the river Rhône, a natural border stretching for 135km, between Lyon and Avignon.

Its climate and vegetation are influenced by the Mediterranean Sea in the south of the county and by the Massif Central in the mountainous area in the western part.



**Inhabitants : 327,000**  
with a density of 59 inhabitants/ km<sup>2</sup>



**Size : 5,529 km<sup>2</sup>,**  
**among them 172,000 hectares**  
**of forests**  
**(31 % of the county)**



**Highest mountain :**  
**Mont-Mézenc, 1,754 m.**



**335 parishes**

## Accommodation

- Ardèche has 295,700 tourist beds.
- 61 % camping sites.
- 17 % self-catering accommodation.
- 12 % collective accommodation.
- 6 % hotels.
- 4 % guesthouses.

## Tourist nights

- 14 million tourist nights in 2019.
- 855 million Euros of economic benefits..

## Tourist origins

- French tourist: 70%.
- Foreign tourists: 30 % - most of them come from 5 European countries: the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Great Britain and Switzerland.

## More information : [pro.ardeche-guide.com](http://pro.ardeche-guide.com)

(chapter Observatoire Départemental du Tourisme)  
in French. English version available soon.

 **"À la conquête de l'Ardèche"**

 **@ArdecheGuide**

 **@ardeche\_tourisme**

**[www.ardeche-guide.com](http://www.ardeche-guide.com)**

 **[www.ardeche-tv.fr](http://www.ardeche-tv.fr)**

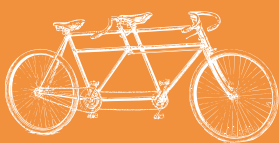


## Photo library

In order to illustrate your articles on Ardèche,  
photos are available upon request at:

[aurelie.renaud-goud@ardeche-guide.com](mailto:aurelie.renaud-goud@ardeche-guide.com)

[veronique.rousset@ardeche-guide.com](mailto:veronique.rousset@ardeche-guide.com)



## How to get to Ardèche

### Distances to Privas :

Paris : 600 km – 373 miles

Lyon : 140 km – 87 miles

Marseille : 210 km – 130 miles

### By train :

Eurostar / TGV and Thalys

Valence ville / Valence TVG stations

Montélimar station

Avignon station

### Airports :

Lyon Saint-Exupéry, Nîmes, Avignon, Grenoble,  
Marseille, Montpellier.



## Press documents :

- Ardèche press file
- Press newsletters
- News

### Available on

<http://presse.ardeche-guide.com/>



## Your press contact :

Lucile CLARA

**Tel. : +33 (0)4 75 64 01 04**

**[lucile.clara@ardeche-guide.com](mailto:lucile.clara@ardeche-guide.com)**

# UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE



## The Pont d'Arc Decorated Cave known as Grotte Chauvet, awarded World Heritage status by UNESCO : JEWEL OF HUMANITY



© JC. Clottes - Centre national de la préhistoire

**The Pont d'Arc Decorated Cave – the 'Grotte Chauvet' – and the replica site**

**2 million visitors reached in 2019!**

Dating back 36,000 years, the extraordinary cave paintings of the Pont d'Arc Decorated Cave – the Grotte Chauvet – are amongst the brightest jewels of humanity. This immense natural cathedral, untouched for millennia, was discovered on December 18 1994 in Ardèche at Vallon Pont d'Arc by three amateur cavers, Jean-Marie Chauvet, Eliette Brunel and Christian Hilaire.

The site combines three characteristics rarely found together – age, quality of images, and the sheer number of artistic representations – 1000 drawings that include 425 animals. Fourteen different species are represented, most of them dangerous animals such as cave

bears, woolly rhinoceros, mammoths and wild cats, and some of them are unique in the history of cave art – a panther, owl, and the lower part of a female body.

The Grotte Chauvet is a unique research resource for scientists from across the world and in June 2014, became the oldest cultural site to be inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage list. The Ardèche Department Council and the Rhône-Alpes Regional Council are committed to guaranteeing the conservation of the original cave and making the most of its cultural importance to the wider world.

But the cave can never be opened to the general public, so in order to share the treasures of the Grotte Chauvet with as many people as possible, a replica cave – Grotte Chauvet 2 Ardèche – was opened in April 2015 on the cliffs above Vallon-Pont-d'Arc. This exceptional attraction offers a moving journey back 36,000 years through time. In a massive and ground-breaking project, skilled artists painstakingly copied the cave paintings to create an exact copy of the original, perfect in every detail, down to the humidity, smell and temperature.

Amazement and emotion guaranteed with every visit!



© JC. Clottes - Centre national de la préhistoire

**Grotte Chauvet 2 Ardèche – 07150 Vallon-Pont-d'Arc**

Tel. +33 (0)4 75 94 39 40

**[www.grottechauvet2ardeche.com](http://www.grottechauvet2ardeche.com)**

## The Ardèche Mountains recognised by UNESCO

Only very special places are awarded UNESCO's Geopark label - 111 of them across the whole world and just 5 in France, so the Monts d'Ardèche Park is proud to be one of them. There are three main criteria for inclusion – the preservation of geological riches; awareness of the environment and the landscape; and the development of sustainable local tourism with regard to the geology. With a landscape dating back 500 million years, the Monts d'Ardèche ticks all the boxes – granite countryside, historic reminders of mining activity, thermal and volcanic activity – and 51 'géosites' have been singled out as being of scientific, educational, or aesthetic importance. Amongst them are volcanic peaks, basalt lava flows, and sculpted cliffs – a wonderful landscape to explore on foot, packed with visual curiosities.

**Parc Naturel Régional des Monts d'Ardèche**

Tel. +33 (0)4 75 36 38 60

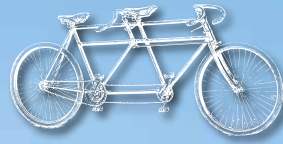
**[www.geopark-monts-ardeche.fr](http://www.geopark-monts-ardeche.fr)**



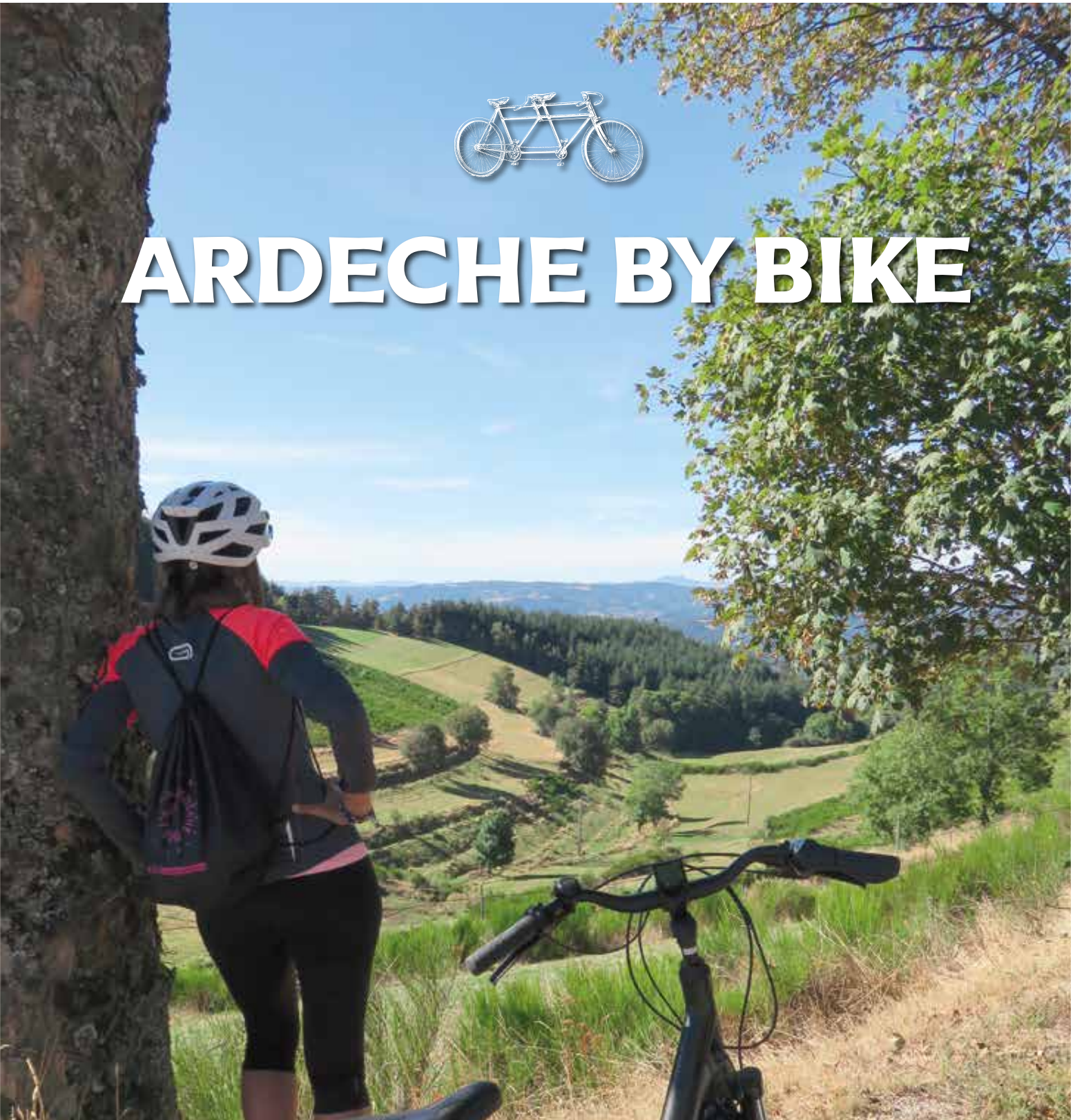
©A. R.G. - ADT07







# ARDECHE BY BIKE



## A department made for cycling

It is hard to imagine a more rewarding place to cycle than Ardèche where quiet roads wind through vineyards and lavender fields beneath oak and chestnut trees. Every bend in the road offers new temptations to explore, far from busy towns and traffic. Discover ancient villages, shady forest trails, and imposing castles along some 400km of trails where bikes have priority. Ardèche boasts the first European cycling event with more than 15,000 cyclists from worldwide and the ViaRhôna now part of the Eurovélo network (n°17).

More information on Accueil Vélo accommodation and e-bike rentals :  
**[www.ardeche-by-bike.com](http://www.ardeche-by-bike.com)**





# MAJOR CYCLING ITINERARIES



© M. DUPONT

## The Great Mountain Bike Route of the Monts d'Ardèche (315km)

With an ascent of 5,569m and a descent of 4,000m between Saint-Agrève and Les Vans, the Great Mountain Bike Route of the Monts d'Ardèche has been designed for mountain bike touring. This itinerary is 315km long, starting from Annonay to Bourg-St-Andeol, crossing Les Vans. It largely follows the GR7 and GR4, passing through the Massif Central and the Cévennes, and over the famous mounts of Mézenc and Gerbier de Jonc. From Saint-Félicien, a 50km track allows to join the main itinerary. Accessible to all, the trail is clearly marked 'Grande Traversée de l'Ardèche'.

**Tip:** a fresh stop at Devesset Lake, accommodation, bathing, windsurfing amongst pine trees.

[www.ardechevtt.com](http://www.ardechevtt.com)

## The ViaRhôna from Lake Geneva to the Mediterranean:

this cycle route project aims to link Lake Geneva to the Mediterranean by following the Rhône. This 800 km itinerary will pass through the Ardèche and the Drôme. The Ardèche route is 93 km is divided into 4 sections: from Sarras to Glun, from Soyons to La Voulte-sur-Rhône, from Pouzin to Rochemaure and from Viviers to Bourg-St-Andeol.

Discover outstanding feats of engineering such as the first suspension bridges in the north of Ardèche and the new Himalayan-style footbridge built to take the ViaRhôna using the supports of the Old Bridge at Rochemaure and to marvel at the remarkable Roman abbey of Cruas.

[www.ardeche-by-bike.com](http://www.ardeche-by-bike.com)

### Tips:

Boat'n Bike

A cruise on a beautiful larch boat 'La Sapine Kiwi' with bike on board, offered by the Compagnie des Canotiers du Rhône from Tournon-sur-Rhône.

Tel. +33 (0)6 44 30 79 76

[www.canotiersboatnbike.com](http://www.canotiersboatnbike.com)



© AL - ADT07

## NEW - Electric bike hire from Tournon-sur-Rhône

Cycle the hills and valleys of Ardèche with minimal effort by hiring an electric bike from Station Bee's at Tournon-sur-Rhône. Accessories include saddlebags, carts, and child seats and proprietor Nicolas Baugiraud can give customers the benefit of his local knowledge as well as provide instructions for enjoying routes around the ViaRhôna.

[www.stationsbees.com](http://www.stationsbees.com)

<https://www.stationsbees.com/stations/station-bee-s-tournon-sur-rhone-ardeche>

## From Via Rhône: the floating Slow Food Café in Tournon-sur-Rhône

Three people with the same idea and one long black river barge were all it needed to launch the Slow Food Café, moored on the Rhône beneath the walls of Tournon castle. Former dietician Raphaëlle has joined forces with interior designer Alexandra and barge owner David to create a unique space where customers can eat, read and relax. So whether you fancy some healthy local food, want to listen to music over a cup of coffee and a magazine, or play some games with the children, the Slow Food Café is the place to be.

2 Promenade Léon Perrier, 07300 Tournon-sur-Rhône

Tel: +33 (0)4 69 11 00 75

[www.lapeniche.biz/la-peniche-slow-food-cafe/](http://www.lapeniche.biz/la-peniche-slow-food-cafe/)

<https://www.ardeche-hermitage.com/en/catalog/activity/slow-food-cafe-la-peniche-4858531/>



© La péniche



# THE DOLCE VIA

**WINNER OF THE 2020 CYCLING ROUTE OF THE YEAR  
AT THE FIETS & WANDELBEURS IN UTRECHT, HOLLAND**



You don't need to be hugely sporty to tackle the Dolce Via. With a gradient of just 1%, this former railway track in the Eyrieux valley has been given a new lease of life as a trail for walkers, cyclists and mountain bikes stretching for 75 km. The route currently links Saint-Laurent-du-Pape to St-Martin de Valamas and Les Nonières but will eventually join the ViaRhôna at La Voulte and on towards St-Agrève and Lamastre to create a 93-km trail. Travel with friends, family or as a couple to explore the Eyrieux valley and enjoy picture-postcard landscapes and fresh, country air.

..... <https://en.ardeche-guide.com/dolce>  
..... [www.dolce-via.com](http://www.dolce-via.com)

Along the way are opportunities to have lunch on a restaurant terrace, relax at a shady café or picnic in the rocks. You can even hire a canoe at Eyrieux Sports or fancy rock climbing above the river at Aquarock!

..... [eyrieuxsport.fr/en](http://eyrieuxsport.fr/en)  
..... [www.aquarock.fr](http://www.aquarock.fr)



© A.R.G. - ADT07

## Domaine de Jonac in Chalencon, just 200m from the Dolce Via cycle route!



Clinging to the slopes of the Eyrieux valley at the heart of an organic farm, La Dolce gîte has been awarded the 3-épis (ears of corn) label and promises a really relaxing stay. Tastefully restored using local materials, the traditional stone property covers 110 m<sup>2</sup> and can accommodate up to 12 people with all modern comforts.

..... [www.domainedejonac.com](http://www.domainedejonac.com)

## Tips: explore La Dolce Via by bus and bike or start on board on a steam train

The coach line 'Le Sept' line 12 will drive you all along the Dolce Via with many stops between St-Laurent-du-Pape and Le Cheylard.

..... **Reservations for cycles - on a cycle carrier - from April to November:**  
..... **tel. +33 (0)4 75 29 11 15**  
..... **Timetables: <https://www.dolce-via.com/fr/pratique/comment-venir/> (in French only)**

Or get on board the steam train 'Le Mastrou' from St-Jean de Muzols to Lamastre where the Dolce Via starts. Advanced bookings for cycles on board compulsory.

3 journeys a week in May, June and until 12th July (Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday).

From 13th July to 1st August, 5 journeys a week (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday). From 2nd to 20th August, 7 days a week.

From September, 3 days a week. In October, 2 days a week.

..... **Train de l'Ardèche**  
..... **Tel. +33 (0)4 75 06 07 00**  
..... **[trainardeche.fr/wp/en/](http://trainardeche.fr/wp/en/)**



©Vincent Plotti-Train de l'Ardèche-ADT07-Accueil Velo



# CYCLING STAYS

## NEW - Le Pied du Géant – magical stopover on the ViaRhôna in Tournon-sur-Rhône

Situated on a pedestrian street in the historic centre of Tournon-sur-Rhône, Le Pied du Géant offers gîte d'étape accommodation on three floors of an old family house, carefully renovated by Jean-Pascal and Sandra. The four bedrooms sleep 2, 3 or 5 people, each with private shower and WC, and with communal living space. Amenities include a secure garage for bike storage, a terrace, garden room, kitchen, and washing machine.

... [www.gite-tournon.fr](http://www.gite-tournon.fr)



© Le Pied du Géant - ADT 07



© M. Rissouan - ADT 07

## NEW - Easy living at L'Auberge les Murets, Chandolas

Dominique and Anne-Catherine Rignanese have transformed a 19th century silk farm at Chandolas in the south of the department into a charming 3\* hotel surrounded by marked cycle trails suitable for families, friends or solo cyclists. Dominique can suggest routes to suit all abilities, whether for independent excursions or accompanied by a professional. And of course he offers all necessary services for cyclists, as well as a pool, Jacuzzi and sauna for relaxing at the end of a day's ride.

... [www.aubergelesmurets.com](http://www.aubergelesmurets.com)



## The Dolce Via... the 'Dolce Vita' in Ardèche!

The holiday begins along the bed of the former railway track - now actually known as the 'Dolce Via' - which once linked Lamastre to Le Cheylard through the mountains of Ardèche. Then after switching valleys, the ride continues along the Eyrieux river, wild and picturesque. According to the starting date, you could go from Tournon-sur-Rhône to Lamastre on board the steam train.

The former railway tracks, mostly disused since 1968, have become simple trails. However, many remarkable civil engineering works dating from the railway era still remain, and the scenery is nothing short of spectacular. Biking along through this little-known yet magnificent countryside, you will see the distinctive valleys of the Boutières - part of the mountains of Ardèche - from a whole new perspective.

**From 525€/person, 5 days 4 nights, half-board accommodation, including luggage transfers.**

... **Safran Tours**

Tel: +33 (0)4 75 25 78 78

... [www.safrantours.com/en/cycling-holidays-in-France/bike-tours/Dolce-Via-bike-tours-Ardeche-France](http://www.safrantours.com/en/cycling-holidays-in-France/bike-tours/Dolce-Via-bike-tours-Ardeche-France)



© A. Renaud-Goud - ADT 07



© Par Monts et par Vaux - ADT 07

## The Ardèche Great Mountain Bike Route – from 5 days/4 nights to 7 days/6 nights

This trail crosses a part of the Ardeche mountains, passes by the sources of the Loire River and takes you through the Mezenc mountains. Located in the Massif Central, we like these high lands (1.753m for Mount Mezenc) for a MTB practice during few days. The itinerary is really demanding and is perfect for those who want to feel the difficulty. This itinerary can be organised either for 5 days / 4 nights and 7 days / 6 nights.

**From 495€/person for 5 days / 4 nights on a 2 people basis.**

... **Languedoc Nature Voyage d'Aventure**

Tel. : +33 (0)4 67 45 00 67

... <https://www.languedoc-nature.com/en/MTB-Crossing-Ardeche>



# OTHER CYCLING ROUTES

## The Via Ardèche

The gentle Via Ardèche offers ever-changing panoramas across the flat land of South Ardèche, the river valley, and the peaks of the Cévennes. Currently stretching for 44km in two tracks : 32km between Uzer and Grospièrres along an old railway track, Spring 2020 will see another 9km added to the route linking Uzer with Vinezac and Balazuc, as well as a further 12km between Beaulieu and St.Paul-le-Jeune.

### Inside Tip

Take advantage of a Pass'VéloCulture which combines one day's electric bike hire with entry into a participating tourist attraction.

..... <https://pontdarc-ardeche.fr/en/prepare-my-stay/activities/cycling>  
..... [www.tourisme-valdeligne.fr](http://www.tourisme-valdeligne.fr)  
..... [www.cevennes-ardeche.com](http://www.cevennes-ardeche.com)



© M. Dupont - ADT07



© Ardèche Grand Air - ADT 07

## La Via Fluvia

The first 10km of the Via Fluvia cycle route between the Loire and the Rhône have just been completed between Annonay and Bourg Argental. And in two years' time, they will connect to the Via Rhône. Travel back in time as you cycle the trail in the footsteps of famous inventors and be ready for some exceptional natural sites along the way, all set in gentle, green countryside.

..... [www.viafluvia.fr](http://www.viafluvia.fr)

## The Payre valley

Initially created in 1861, the Pouzin / Privas railway was the 1st railway line to enter service in Ardèche. At this time Ardèche was among the leading industrial counties of France and the railway allowed the transport of iron ore extracted from the mines in the Privas basin. Reserved for passenger transport by 1910, it was again used to transport local production, before closing altogether in 1994. This old route has many interesting structures: tunnels, viaducts, bridges, footbridges, and hydraulic works. Abandoned in recent decades, this heritage line consequently now needs work and a programme of restoration is now under way. Since summer 2018, the whole itinerary covers 20km and between Privas and Le Pouzin from the ViaRhona junction.

..... [www.ardeche-buissonniere.fr/en/prepare-and-book/move-it-lets-go-exploring/foot-and-cycle-paths/la-payre-cycle-path/](http://www.ardeche-buissonniere.fr/en/prepare-and-book/move-it-lets-go-exploring/foot-and-cycle-paths/la-payre-cycle-path/)



© BM - ADT 07



© CB - ADT 07

## The 'Voie Bleue' - The 'Blue Trail'

This 12km trail for walkers and cyclists runs alongside the Rhône between Guilherand-Granges and Châteaubourg, and Tournon-sur-Rhône soon. Heading towards Guilherand-Granges, users can join the trail just 100m from the ViaRhona car park at Pont des Lônes, direction Soyons. However the north-bound junction with ViaRhona for the 2km between Châteaubourg and Glun, is still to be completed. Half the trail has been resurfaced, the rest covered with tarmac. Most of the trail follows the river bank, passing through an unspoilt natural environment rich in fauna and flora, and car parks and picnic areas along the route provide easy access for everybody.

..... <https://en.carte.ardeche-guide.com/bicycle/the-blue-trail-257>



# OTHER CYCLING ROUTES

## Trio of villages joined by new cycle loop, La Lande à Vélo



© La Lande à Vélo - ADT 07

Explore the three character villages of Vinezac, Ailhon and Chassiers on a new 35km cycle route that meanders through vineyards, narrow lanes, and hidden woodland hamlets, passing low stone walls and gently running streams. Take your time to soak up the atmosphere of unspoilt Ardèche. All three villages carry the Accueil Vélo label – Bikes Welcome – that guarantees cycle-friendly services and good addresses for sampling local hospitality and produce.



..... <https://en.carte.ardeche-guide.com/#/balade/627>

## 'On the trail of the Ardéchoise'

Follow the 13 different stages of the famous Ardéchoise cycle race at your own pace and at any time of year along routes labelled, 'Sur les routes de l'Ardéchoise'. The shortest stage measures 85km, the whole route 620km, but it's easy to pick a shorter section to suit your ability. So whether you want a sporting challenge or a gentle pedal through the countryside, the routes offer something for everyone. Along the way, accommodation providers labelled 'Accueil vélo' offer special facilities for cyclists including repair kits, luggage transport and super-nutritious breakfast.

..... <https://en.carte.ardeche-guide.com>



© Gerard Pleyner - ADT 07



More information on the 290 Accueil Vélo accommodation and activities and e-bike rentals :

..... [www.ardeche-by-bike.com](http://www.ardeche-by-bike.com)

## The TOUR DE FRANCE back in Ardèche on 1st & 2nd July 2020 !

2 towns will be involved : Privas for an arrival on Wednesday 1st July and Le Teil for a departure on Thursday 2nd July.





# MAP OF ARDÈCHE BY BIKE

<https://carte.ardeche-guide.com>





# CULTURAL HERITAGE & TOURIST SITES



## **PASS ARDECHE, days out at a Discount**



Ardèche Loisirs et Patrimoine is an association of 35 cultural and leisure sites which together introduce visitors to a huge diversity of local attractions. Buy a Pass Card for 3 days, 6 days, or a year and have free access to 35 member sites.

[www.visites-ardeche.com](http://www.visites-ardeche.com)



# NATURE SITES

## The Ardèche Gorges



© M. Dupont

© S. Bugnon

A deep, breathtaking “defile”, with unexpected, impressive viewpoints, unspoilt, peaceful scenery..., the Ardèche Gorges are known far and wide, thanks to the Pont d’Arc!

This series of sinuous canyons is a superb natural, open-air museum, and a paradise for those who love canoeing. Since 1932, the 20-mile descent of the Gorges, which includes twenty-five rapids, has been a must for all who wish to enjoy the ultimate in thrills in this challenging sport!

Walkers can complete much the same route in around 12 hours.

The Ardèche Gorges tourist route :

At each viewpoint, tourists will find a linear representation of the river and the route engraved in a stone in the ground, as well as a totem indicating the viewpoint name and engraved blocks representing plant and animal species symbolising the Gorges. Tastefully combining stone and metal, these viewpoints are perfectly integrated into the landscape overlooking the Nature Reserve – a real aid to the 1.5 million tourists expected to follow the route each year.

... [www.gorgesdelardeche.fr](http://www.gorgesdelardeche.fr)

Tourist offices in the Ardèche gorges area:

... [www.pontdarc-ardeche.fr](http://www.pontdarc-ardeche.fr)

... [www.rhone-gorges-ardeche.com](http://www.rhone-gorges-ardeche.com)

## Le Grand Site ‘Combe d’Arc’ (2015-2020)

The Ardèche Gorges attract many tourists to the department, in particular the ‘Combe d’Arc’ which welcomes some 1.5 million visitors a year. Second most visited site in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region after Mont Blanc, it is the fourth most photographed natural space in France.

Now the Combe d’Arc is hoping to be accredited as a Grand Site de France, a label which involves the preservation and management of the most prestigious and most visited national heritage sites. Over several decades, the Combe d’Arc has been used almost exclusively for leisure, to the detriment of the landscape. Visitors aren’t able to understand the specific geology of the area, nor its astonishing human history.

The main aim of the Grand Site operation is to once again identify the original meander and river bed in the landscape and regain the views on the Pont d’Arc natural arch. The project therefore has four goals – to restore the splendour of the Pont d’Arc; manage visitor numbers better; enhance the entry points to the Combe d’Arc; and show other ways of discovering the Combe d’Arc. These goals will be achieved by 14 separate elements of the proposed enhancements between now and 2020. So far, the only Grand Site de France, designated in 2004, is the Aven d’Orgnac.

... [www.grandsite-combedarc-ardeche.fr](http://www.grandsite-combedarc-ardeche.fr)

## Gerbier de Jonc – Discovery Centre for the sources of the Loire

France’s longest river begins at an altitude of 1,551 metres on the slopes of Gerbier du Jonc. From summer 2018, a visitor centre has opened in a former Touring Club building as part of a complete overhaul of this important mountain site. Geology, volcanoes, and the phenomenon of the watershed are all explained through models, films and displays. Three virtual routes are also laid out within the museum with pop-up effects, films and games to illustrate different themes. Fun, informative and light years away from textbook learning.

Maison de Site du Gerbier de Jonc, Plateforme du Gerbier, 07510 Sainte-Eulalie

... [www.la-montagne-ardechoise.com](http://www.la-montagne-ardechoise.com)



© Mathieu DUPONT

## The magical Païolive Wood, Les Vans

One of the strangest natural sites in the Southern Ardèche is the Païolive Wood, a natural maze extending for 16 m<sup>2</sup>. The mix of rock and vegetation gives a wild and mysterious air to this 'Fairy Wood', where white limestone rocks were shaped by rain water in the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods. All ages can have fun looking out for shapes that resemble creatures such as a tortoise and an elephant, a bear, a lion and bird on the nest. Just follow one of the marked paths or the hikers' trail.

... [www.cevennes-ardeche.com](http://www.cevennes-ardeche.com)



© M. RISSOAN



© A. R-G - ADT07

## Natural springs and extinct volcanoes

12 million years ago, the Ardèche went through a period of dramatic pyrotechnic activity which created the landscape we see today. Mont Gerbier de Jonc, for instance, source of the Loire, was created during an eruption, the lava transformed into a dome which is known locally as a 'suc' and rises to 1551m. Other basalt peaks also stand out on the horizon, the highest being Mont Mézenc, a pyramidal peak which dominates the watershed line at more than 1754m. Volcanic activity is also captured at the Ray Pic cascade where water pours down 30m over basalt columns, one of the longest lava flows in France. No swimming allowed though! To see a volcanic lake, head to the Lac d'Issarlès where water has filled an ancient crater.

... **Office de Tourisme de la Montagne Ardéchoise**  
[www.la-montagne-ardechoise.com](http://www.la-montagne-ardechoise.com)

... **Office de Tourisme Ardèche Sources et Volcans**  
[www.ardechedessourcesetvolcans.com](http://www.ardechedessourcesetvolcans.com)

## The Monts d'Ardèche Regional Nature Park

The Monts d'Ardèche Regional Nature Park, created in April 2011, is the 40th most important park in France and the 6th in the Rhône-Alpes region.

The Park's objective is to provide visitors with high quality tourist facilities, and above all enable them discover the local territory and its heritage and landscapes, giving priority to the shoulder seasons and spreading visitors throughout the whole area, right into the deepest valleys.

... **Parc Naturel Régional des Monts d'Ardèche**  
 07380 Jaujac - Tel. : +33 (0)4 75 36 38 60  
[www.parc-monts-ardeche.fr](http://www.parc-monts-ardeche.fr)

## NEW - Take a Tour of the Tanargue - GR® de Pays – 63 km in 4 days

Choose a departure date, reserve accommodation on line, and for four days, keen hikers can explore the Massif du Tanargue. The route leaves Largentièrre and winds along the ridges for 62km, frequently at altitudes higher than 1000m. On the way, pass the panoramic viewpoint at Tour de Brison; the 15th century Gua bridge with its three arches; and the mountain village of Loubaresse, as well as Mont Aigu, a summit of 1316m. Straddling the Watershed Line, the Tanargue offers a mix of mule trails and transhumance tracks, used for centuries by local farmers. The biodiversity of the peaks and valleys is extraordinary with areas of chestnut and beech forest, marshland and meadows – a wonderful journey in the footsteps of shepherds through an unspoilt landscape with hints of the Mediterranean. Create your own short break on line at:

... <https://www.ardeche-guide.com/randonnee-itinerante-pied-dans-le-massif-du-tanargue>



© M. Dupont - ADT07



# FOLLOW THE LINE OF THE WATERSHED

The department of Ardèche is crossed by an invisible line marking the natural watershed that divides water flowing into the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. And since July 2017, artists have been installing commissioned works of art that reflect the countryside, history and craft traditions of the area.

**Monts d'Ardèche Regional Nature Park - Jaujac**

Tel: +33 (0)4 75 36 38 60

<http://www.lepartagedeseaux.fr>



## Chartreuse de Bonnefoy

This ruined abbey surrounded by countryside has become a moving work of art thanks to Stéphane Thidet who has installed giant mirrors in empty windows and doors. Gently angled towards the sky or the soil, they reflect the landscape and bring the observer into the heart of it – a mix of mystery and reality, illusion and reflection.



## Gerbier de Jonc

Film-maker Olivier Leroi has recorded the Loire from a helicopter and the resulting film will be shown on a loop at the new discovery centre at the river's source on the slopes of Gerbier de Jonc. Olivier is also installing a plaque at each one of the mountain springs to represent the fauna and flora that are typical of that spot. Photographers will also be taken every 50 km from the source to the estuary, a portrait of the Loire in 22 pictures.



## Tour de Borne

German artist Gloria Friedmann is known for her minimalist works that invite the onlooker to step inside. Now she is tracing the outline of a lighthouse, a building linked to the Tour de Borne nature observation tower. At the top a 360° panorama in blue will highlight the unique position of this lighthouse on the watershed that links the Atlantic Ocean with the Mediterranean Sea.



## Abbaye de Mazan

This ruined Cistercian abbey has a new lease of life thanks to painter Felice Varini who highlights the architectural elements of a building against a backdrop of the countryside, creating geometric forms. Inspired by the changing light of the Ardèche mountains, Varini is working in gold leaf here at Mazan, and wherever you look, circles will appear, as though resting on the church roof.



© BM - ADT07

## Sagnes et Goudoulet (La Chaumasse) – 'Water Tower' artwork mirrors nature

Innovative landscape gardener and botanist Gilles Clément has created a 'water tower' in homage to the most famous peak in Ardèche, Mont Gerbier de Jonc. Built out of the same volcanic rock as the mountain itself, the conical, hollow tower captures humidity from the air which condenses on the outside walls and is then collected in a basin inside the tower. From here it divides to flow either to the Atlantic or the Mediterranean, just as rainwater flows in either direction here from the natural watershed.



© Le Partage des Eaux - ADT07

## Terre Loire

Now Japanese artist Kôichi Kurita has inaugurated the sixth piece in the cellars of Notre-Dame des Neiges Abbey at St Laurent les Bains. Called Terre Loire, it involves 700 small cups placed on a map of the Loire and its tributaries, each cup containing earth from that precise spot. Find it by taking the GR7 trail on foot or by bike, but also by car, guided by a mock GPS from the Toplamak artists' collective which turns the journey into a fantasy adventure.

## NEW : Seventh artwork to be installed on the Watershed Trail end 2020

'Crystal Cave' by two contemporary artists under the name HeHe will be the seventh outdoor artwork to be installed along the Watershed Trail. This natural mountain ridge determines whether rainfall ends up in the Mediterranean or the Atlantic Ocean. The new piece will stand above the village of St Laurent les Bains along a hiking trail that joins the GR7. It faces towards the Mediterranean, as opposed to 'Terre Loire' by Kôichi Kurita which faces the Atlantic. 'Crystal Cave' was inspired by the old fluorite mines and their interaction with natural water, and will be in place late this year.



# THE SECRET WORLD OF CAVES

Imagine a time when Ardeche was submersed in the depths of the sea, a time when subterranean cavities and extraordinary lime and basalt concretions took shape over centuries of inexorable erosions and water infiltrations. Nowadays such places are open to the public, except for the spectacular Chauvet-Pont-d'Arc Cave (which was sealed off to the public in 1994), you can choose among a list of five stunning caves in Ardeche.



© D. Donzel - ADT 07

## Aven d'Orgnac, 'Grand Site de France'

This exceptional natural cave is remarkable because of its huge volume, beautiful condition, and fabulous stalagmites and stalactites. The guided visit is a fantastic journey through underground cathedrals decorated with formations that resemble piles of plates and forests of palm trees, rows of organ pipes and flowing drapes. At the end of the 121-metre circuit, the magnificent 'nave' is showcased in an unforgettable sound and light show before visitors are whisked back to ground level in a lift. Orgnac Immersions® – a 360° adventure into prehistory and cave exploration. Experience a 10-minute double dose of virtual reality at the Grand Site of the Aven d'Orgnac with the aid of a special headset. The adventure starts at the archeological site of the Baume de Ronze, where you will live the life of a Neolithic shepherd before coming right up to date and joining a team of virtual cave explorers to travel through subterranean passages in complete safety, getting right up close to fragile concretions formed over millions of years. An immersive experience that links the Orgnac grotto and the Prehistory Centre.

Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 38 65 10  
[www.orgnac.com](http://www.orgnac.com)



© M. Dupont - ADT 07

## Aven Marzal :

a unique site in Europe with a striking entrance and rich colours, an underground world museum with a display of potholers' equipments and a prehistoric zoo in the park outside named 'the Dinos' forest'.

Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 04 12 45  
[www.aven-marzal.com](http://www.aven-marzal.com)



© ARG - ADT 07



## Madeleine Cave :

in the very heart of the Ardeche Gorges Nature Reserve, a multitude of stalactites of 2-million-years old, in 25 rooms, with a light and sound show. The most beautiful viewpoint over the gorges and its 'Cathedral'. On spot, discover the House of the Ardeche Gorges Nature Reserve.

Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 04 22 20  
[www.grottemadeleine.com](http://www.grottemadeleine.com)



©Val\_d'Ardeche-Grotte\_de\_la\_Madeleine-ADT07



©CB-ADT07

## St-Marcel-d'Ardèche Caves :

discovered in 1936, a wide underground network, with its extensive deep pools, beautiful chalk stones, light and sound show. An unexpected activity : a combination of caving and winetasting, with wine barrels left in the cave itself.

Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 04 38 07  
[www.grotte-ardeche.com](http://www.grotte-ardeche.com)  
[www.speleo-oenologie.com](http://www.speleo-oenologie.com)

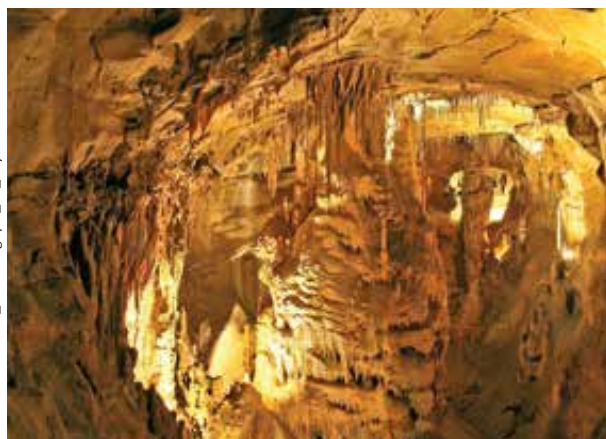
## La Forestière Grotto at the Aven d'Orgnac

Experience the extraordinary atmosphere of this intimate grotto where an abundance of tree roots fall from the ceiling amongst the stalactites. Visit independently with a head lamp or, when visits are over for the day, enjoy a unique overnight bivouac thanks to the Spélé'Hôtel, three tents suspended a metre above the ground with a transparent section enabling guests to admire the roof of the grotto whilst lying down. This unique experience includes relaxing beneath thousands of twinkling crystals and tree roots that hang down from the ceiling.

Tel. : +33 (0)4 75 38 63 08  
[www.grotte-ardeche.fr](http://www.grotte-ardeche.fr)



©Aven-Grotte la Forestière



©M.Rissoan-musee\_archeologique\_de\_Soyons-ADT07

## Soyons Prehistoric Caves

2 prehistoric caves: 'Neron' cave, a listed cave as a 'Historic Monument', a journey in the heart of prehistory and the 'Trou du Renard' cave, a discovery of the underground world and its network. Also an archaeological museum on site.

Tel.: + 33(0)4 75 60 88 86  
[www.soyons.fr](http://www.soyons.fr)



# TOP 5 TOURIST SITES



© L.Clara-ADT07

## The Grotte Chauvet 2 Ardèche

Deep inside a cave, the first artists in the history of Man painted a masterpiece – horses, lions, rhinoceros and many other animals. Then fast forward 36 thousand years to our own technological age. Highly skilled engineers and artists have completed a unique project, a faithful replica of the decorated cavern of Pont d'Arc, also known as Grotte Chauvet, so now visitors can feel the same emotions and excitement as the 20th century teenagers who first discovered the paintings. Open every day, all year round. 2 million visitors reached in 2019!

..... **Grotte Chauvet 2 Ardèche**, Plateau du Razal, 07150 Vallon-Pont-d'Arc  
..... Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 94 39 40  
..... **[www.grottechauvet2ardeche.com](http://www.grottechauvet2ardeche.com)**

## Vélorail

Enjoy an unusual journey through the wild, lush valley of the river Doux on a pedal-powered cart on wheels that runs on a disused 12km rail track. Completely silent and requiring very little effort, the trip starts from Boucieu-le-Roi and finishes at St-Jean-de-Muzols station, passing wonderful works of art along the way. The second track ends at Lamastre at Monteil station. This new journey rather crosses plain fields but requires much effort. Each vélorail can carry four passengers and the activity is suitable for all ages. Both return journeys are made on board the 'billard' train.

..... **Vélorail des Gorges du Doux**, 07270 Boucieu-le-Roi  
..... Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 08 20 30  
..... **[www.velorailardeche.com](http://www.velorailardeche.com)**



© S. Bridot

## The Ardèche steam train

The train now leaves from the historic station of St Jean de Muzols - 3km from Tournon-sur-Rhône – which has been rebuilt using archive photos. The regular journey will be between St Jean de Muzols and Colombier le Vieux, passing through the magnificent protected landscape of the Doux valley, inaccessible by road. But on certain days, the train will go as far as Lamastre with its local produce market. An unforgettable journey for young and old.

..... **Train de l'Ardèche**, 07300 St-Jean de Muzols  
..... Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 06 07 00  
..... **[www.trainardeche.fr](http://www.trainardeche.fr)**



© Ludovic Fremondiere - ADT07

## Lavender Museum - The Saint-Remèze Distillery

Near the Gorges of the Ardèche, in the heart of lavender fields, enter a magical world of scents and colours. Lavender has always grown on the Plateau des Gras but the first crops were created in the early 20th century. There are approximately twenty varieties, three of which are predominant in Southern Ardèche: lavandin, broad-leaved lavender and fine lavender. Lavender evokes childhood memories of our grandmothers' wardrobes or holidays in the sun. In the distillery, you will learn everything about the extraction of essential oil and how it becomes perfume. Discover products made from lavender in our shop: essential oils, scents, hygiene products, decorative items, books and delicacies. Lavender plants on sale on site as well as a snack bar.

New in 2020 : the 'Lavender Train'.  
Open from 1st April to 30th September.

..... **Musée de la Lavande** - 07700 Saint-Remèze  
..... Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 04 37 26  
..... **[www.ardechelavandes.com](http://www.ardechelavandes.com)**



© Safari\_de\_Peaugres-ADT07

## Peaugres Safari

4 continents displayed on 80 ha: a genuine journey in the animal life! Close your car windows and drive 'safari style' through lions, bears, bison and hippos. Then leave your car vehicle to walk safely amongst other park dwellers such as giraffes, seals, snakes, monkeys and antelopes, not forgetting the fawns.

Highlights for families include five 'animal tracks' cabins where children have to identify the sounds and smells of the animal kingdom; the new elephant house where visitors can watch the professionals interact with their charges; and the Gitaki play area themed to European biodiversity. Take a safari by car across an 'African plain' that's as good as the real thing. Or try a VIP visit on foot – a first in Rhône-Alpes that's suitable for young and old.

..... **Safari de Peaugres** - 07340 Peaugres  
..... Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 33 00 32  
..... **[www.safari-peaugres.com](http://www.safari-peaugres.com)**

# CULTURAL HERITAGE

## Villages with Character

Clinging bravely to the mountainside or hidden in valley bottoms, these villages glow gold in the southern sun. Tiny streets run between ancient houses with stone slab roofs that blend perfectly with the wild hills and flower-covered balconies shimmer in the crystal clear waters of the mountain torrents.

These are truly exquisite villages, each with its own distinctive character.

The 21 listed villages are : Ailhon, Alba-la-Romaine, Antraigues, Balazuc, Banne, Beauchastel, Boucieu-le-Roi, Chalencon, Chassiers, Désaignes, Jaujac, Labeaume, Meyras, Naves, Rochemaure, St-Laurent-sous-Coiron, St-Montan, St-Vincent-de-Barrès, Thueyts, Vinezac and Vogüé.

[en.ardeche-guide.com/amazing-experiences/villages-outstanding-character](http://en.ardeche-guide.com/amazing-experiences/villages-outstanding-character)



## NEW - Saint Laurent sous Coiron awarded Character Village label



© M. Dupont - ADT07

Perched like an eagle's nest with 360° panoramic views over the Ardèche plain and mountains, Saint-Laurent-sous-Coiron is the highest of the department's character villages, situated on the basalt Coiron plateau that links the Col de l'Escrinet to the Rhône. Its own micro-climate results in a green landscape with hedges and trees, ideal for dairy farming, and several local sites are proof of human presence since ancient times, including cave houses in the basalt cliffs at Les Balmes de Montbrun.

A few traces remain of the old ramparts, the village dominated by the ruins of the castle, whilst down below, the parish church boasts a beautiful Romanesque door. Other ruins include a square building from around the 12th century. Local limestone and basalt are evident in many historic buildings, the varying shades creating a chequerboard effect.



© M. Dupont - ADT07



© M. Dupont - ADT07

## NEW in Labeaume, village with character, Mas Sophia, handmade soap made from plants

After living abroad for several years, Pascale Chauvel returned to her roots in Ardèche and opened a small craft soap business in Labeaume using extracts of plants. Here in the south of Ardèche, she grows species that don't need a lot of water – lavender and rosemary, sage and bay – and makes soap using essential oils from her home-grown plants. Among her specialties is soap produced from silk cocoons and thyme flowers, using cocoons given to her by the Silk Worm Museum in Lagorce. A happy coincidence, given that Pascale's home is a former silk worm farm!

[www.massophia.com](http://www.massophia.com)





## Cité de la Préhistoire where prehistory comes to life

Take a voyage back in time from the Paleolithic Era to the Iron Age at the Aven d'Ornac in southern Ardèche, a designated Grand Site de France. Now 21st century time-travellers can take an interactive journey through 350,000 years of early Man along a time-line dotted with tools, weapons and clay artefacts, accompanied by the latest multimedia techniques. Try lighting a fire, making a flint tool, or hunting with a spear, helped by archaeologists who bring prehistoric times vividly to life.

**Grand Site de l'Aven d'Ornac**, La Cité de la Préhistoire,  
07150 Ornac l'Aven  
Tel.: + 33 (0)4 75 38 65 10  
[www.ornac.com](http://www.ornac.com)



© LC - ADT 07

## MuséAl, Alba-la-Romaine

This new museum showcases the archeological discoveries made over the last 20 years and, in particular, the superb statue of an emperor found on the Gallo-Roman site. Themes dealt with include urbanisation, daily life, gods and death. Located on the edge of the village, the architecture is also amazing, a massive rectangular building behind a forecourt covered by a vast awning. Outside the museum, visitors step back into ancient times along an old street fringed with shops, and in temples and a theatre which stages a festival every summer.

**MuséAl - Ancient site of Alba**, RD102, 07400 Alba-la-Romaine  
Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 52 45 15  
<https://en.ardeche-guide.com/sites-to-visit/museums-sites/museal-311962>



© L.Claire - ADT 07

## The Ardèche Museum

Life on earth and the origins of the Ardèche are vividly showcased in the Ardèche Museum in the heart of Balazuc, one of the Most Beautiful Villages in France. Here visitors can rediscover their roots through a superb collection of fossils which came from the private paleontology collection of Bernard Riou. 'The fossils are both magical and disturbing at the same time,' says Mehdi Bennourine, president of Paleontology Discovery at the Museum. 'Looking at them, you feel that life suddenly stopped and that they are telling us about their era. The variety is amazing. To really get the most from a visit, I'd recommend taking part in one of our excavation workshops or one of the nature walks to discover the limestone plateaux along the Ardèche.'

**Muséum de l'Ardèche**, 07120 Balazuc  
Tel. : +33 (0)4 28 40 00 35  
[www.museum-ardeche.fr](http://www.museum-ardeche.fr)



© ADT 07

## Joseph Besset Museum: Wheelwrighting to Coachwork Museum, Vanosc

Fans of vintage vehicles won't want to miss this unique attraction at Vanosc near Annonay where visitors can follow the story of Joseph Besset from his wheelwright apprenticeship to car body work and coach manufacture. Isobloc became the first European coach without a chassis and today all coaches are built to this design, Annonay growing to be one of the biggest coach-manufacturing sites in Europe. Visits are by appointment only and cover both the museum and the current IVECO Bus factory, where you can see the coach and bus production line.

**Espace Joseph Besset / Musée du Car**, Route de Burdigues,  
07690 Vanosc  
Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 34 62 93  
<https://en.ardeche-guide.com/sites-to-visit/museums-sites/espace-joseph-besset-wheelwrighting-coachwork-museum-134321>



© LC - ADT 07

## Arts and crafts

Discover how the artists and craftsmen of Ardèche produce beautiful and innovative pieces. A number of collective boutiques display work by several individuals, whilst special events showcase talents ranging from ceramics and basket-making to ironwork and carpentry, upholstery and jewellery.

### Le Carré des Créateurs collective craft boutique at Tournon-sur-Rhône

Permanent outlet for work by local craftsmen including upcycled furniture, cardboard furniture, pottery, decorative carpets and household linen.

... <https://www.facebook.com/metiersdART07/>



© BM - ADT07

### Exetera collective boutique opens at Privas

A dozen creators and designers take turns to man their shop in the centre of Privas. Expect objects in all kinds of materials from paper to clay, steel to copper... even handcrafted lingerie. A great opportunity to chat to talented craftsmen.

... <https://www.facebook.com/exetera.privas.5>



© Terraexetera

## Two must-do events

<http://trajectoiresmetiersdart.com/category/evenements/>

### Crafts Biennial at Vogüé – second half of November

This popular event is attracting more and more visitors each time, thanks to the wide range of crafts people and artists. Around 40 of them will display their work and talk to visitors, amongst them painters, sculptors and glass makers, potters, carpenters and photographers.

### Blou'Art – art and creativity in Thueyts, first weekend September

More than 65 artists and crafts people come together in early September in the historic centre of Thueyts, one of several Character Villages across Ardèche. The venue is Château de Blou, its parc and outbuildings, including a vast gallery of 1000m<sup>2</sup>.



© ARG - ADT07



© G. EDOUARD - ADT07

#### Inside Tip:

**In Joyeuse** – labelled as a 'Ville et Métiers d'Art' – the Rue des Arts collective had added a new dimension to the Grande Rue. Old shops have been turned into workshop boutiques where artists and crafts people welcome the public.

... <https://www.facebook.com/ruesdesartsjoyeuse/>



© CB-ADT07



# THRILLING EXPERIENCES

## Giant abseiling at Autridge pillar in the Ardèche gorges

In the heart of the Ardèche gorges nature reserve, Autridge pillar towers 230m above the Ardèche river. Just a few minutes' walk with your guide brings you to the starting point, then travel down through 180m of thin air without touching the cliff ! From that point the view is just amazing with the discovery of hidden treasures in the cliff and the surroundings. The arrival point is at 60m above the river, followed by a steep itinerary to reach the parking area. So the return journey is quite a challenge too !

Rates : 75 € with a guide and full equipment

..... **Base Canyon de la Besorgues** - 07600 Labastide-sur-Besorgues  
..... Tel. +33 (0)4 75 38 67 37 or +33 (0)7 86 22 78 45  
..... <https://en.canyon-besorgues.com/activite-nature-ardeche/giant-abseiling/>



© ARG - ADT 07



© D. Donzel - ADT 07

## 'Vertigo hike 'in the Aven d'Orgnac

An unusual discovery in the heart of Orgnac cavern, 50m above the cave floor.

Stéphane Tocino guides teams of up to six people for an extraordinary experience ! Using a mixture of via cordata and speleology, follow a technical itinerary towering over the traditional visit 50m below ! Another way of discovering the marvels of the cave, at your own pace. Thrill to the final challenge of a 50m long vertiginous Tyrolean rope at the end of an unforgettable visit.

Rates : 49€/person (only for sports people)

..... **Grand Site de l'Aven d'Orgnac** - 07150 Orgnac l'Aven  
..... Tel. +33 (0)4 75 38 65 10  
..... <https://www.orgnac.com/en/caving-activities.html>

## Via Ferrata by the Devil's Bridge in Thueyts

An important area for climbing, Ardèche has over forty quality sites with every kind of rock: granite in the Haut Vivarais, limestone in southern Ardèche, phonolite in Boutières.

On the programme: a total of more than 20 miles of rock to be climbed.

..... **In Thueyts, navigate the via ferrata of the 'Pont du Diable'**  
..... the Devil's Bridge.  
..... Information and equipment rental : Thueyts Tourist Office  
..... Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 36 46 79  
..... [www.thueyts.fr](http://www.thueyts.fr) - [www.viaferrata.org](http://www.viaferrata.org)



© AL - ADT 07

# AMAZING WATER ACTIVITIES... BUT NOT ONLY!



© Patou Bateau - ADT07



## Try Stand-up Paddle at St Martin d'Ardèche

Swimmers over the age of 7 can have a go at Stand-up Paddle on the calm water of the Sauze Lake, starting point for the famous descent of the Ardèche gorges. Your instructor will teach you how to keep your balance on the broad board and then move forward using the paddle. Hire a board for an hour, half a day, or a day. And when you need a break, relax on the beach opposite the Gardoises cliffs.

Patou Bateau, 07700 Saint Martin d'Ardèche  
Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 04 65 12  
<https://patou-bateau.fr/en>

## Moonlit evenings on the Ardèche river

A canoe trip down the Ardèche is a must-do at any time of day, but there's something magical about a canoe trip by moonlight. Prepare for atmosphere overload when you set off on the 6km journey, gliding past silhouettes of rock formations, listening to noises of the night, and enjoying a unique journey over the small rapids. Beavers are busy building dams along the banks, but everything's calm in the canoe. The experience lasts four hours but the memories will last for ever.

Canoyak, 07150 Vallon Pont d'Arc  
Tel.: +33 (0)4 26 62 26 44 or +33 (0)6 03 13 46 87  
[www.canoyak.fr](http://www.canoyak.fr)



© Canoyak

## Rafting through the Chassezac gorge

Huge fun and easy to do, rafting through the Chassezac gorge is an exciting contrast to the better-known activity of canoeing down the Ardèche gorge. The descent lasts for 90 minutes and it's a thrill from start to finish with lots of laughter, fabulous views and a fair amount of splashing! Accompanied by a qualified guide, you'll reach out-of-the way places and pass through imposing narrow passages. Not to be missed.

Compagnie de Canoë de Chassezac, 07140 Les Vans  
Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 37 33 60  
[www.canoe-chassezac.com](http://www.canoe-chassezac.com)

© Compagnie de Canoë de Chassezac



## Visit the vineyards by canoe

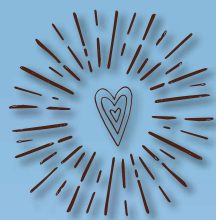
Seventh generation to produce wine at Domaine du Colombier in Vallon-Pont-d'Arc, Ludovic Walbaum had the unusual idea of bringing guests downriver by canoe for a wine tasting and picnic, followed by two hours of relaxation on the Domaine's own beach. Choose from independent or accompanied travel by canoe for this sociable and sporting discovery which has been accredited 'Vignobles et Découvertes'.

Domaine du Colombier, 07150 Vallon-Pont-d'Arc.  
Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 88 01 70  
[www.domaineducolombier.fr](http://www.domaineducolombier.fr)



© CB - ADT07





# AMAZING ACCOMMODATION





## 'Séjours de Charme in Ardèche'

### Séjours de Charme – 25 enchanting accommodation ideas

If you fancy a break in some truly unforgettable accommodation, look out for the label 'Séjours de Charme en Ardèche' – nearly 30 unique properties that include elegant town houses, authentic stone farms, imposing chateaux and country houses.

<https://en.ardeche-guide.com/charming-stays>



## Maison Muz, Saint-Benest-de-Beauzon Snug stay with artistic touch



© Maison Muz - ADT07

Florence Kaiser always wanted to live in an old stone house and after her summer holiday in Bannes in 2018, she knew she wanted that house to be in Ardèche. So the former chef and her set-designer partner Bernard Dagan left Nantes in search of a property with a workshop where they could both practise their passion for ceramics. Now they have transformed a house in the foothills of the Cévennes into a delightful guest house with two beautiful bedrooms. Bowen, the smaller one, is reminiscent of Vancouver Island with its blue fabrics, chestnut wood floor, and wood-scented candles, whilst Walden recalls a chic log cabin with walls of deep green. Total chill- out in a house that offers forest views from the terrace with table d'hôte dinners created from local produce.

..... **Maison Muz – Saint-Benest-de-Beauzon**  
..... Florence Kaiser & Bernard Dagan  
..... tel. +33 (0)6 42 99 60 52  
..... **[www.maisonmuz.fr](http://www.maisonmuz.fr)**

## Family atmosphere at the Mas de Combeau, Tauriers

Once occupied by the guards for the Château de Tauriers, Le Mas de Combeau dates from 1736 and simply oozes tradition and history. Aurélie and Alexandre Delranc breathed new life into the property when they arrived from Paris, refurbishing the living areas and adding soul to the bedrooms, each in a different style. Choose from Verychic, Induchic, Cosychic and Familychic, with touches that range from industrial to Scandinavian, all within beautiful stone walls. As well as this mix of decoration styles, Aurélie wanted to create a convivial atmosphere, the latter assured by a nightly apero with her guests.

..... **Mas de Combeau – Tauriers**  
..... Aurélie & Alexandre Delranc – tel. +33 (0)4 75 88 84 79  
..... **[www.masdecombeau.fr](http://www.masdecombeau.fr)**



© Mas de Combeau - ADT07



## Unusual experiences surrounded by nature:



### Les Cabanes du Loup Bleu, La Souche craft lessons and 'art' cabins



© Cabanes du Loup Bleu - ADT07

Imagine a log cabin covered in copper 'leaves' amongst the chestnut trees. Another in the shape of a tower with a glass wall. And two more traditional properties, all in the same 3-hectare plot crossed by a river. Deep in the Regional Nature Park of the Monts d'Ardèche at La Souche, Swiss couple Caroline and Pascal Carret have created a haven where guests can spend the nights in unusual accommodation and spend their days learning modelling, sculpture or painting. A sculptor herself, Caroline wanted to share her passion for the natural world and has added old furniture to her innovative accommodation, highlighted with touches of blue that for her symbolise sky, water and weightlessness. Meet her two pure-bred fillies and maybe even a wolf, an animal that fascinates Caroline with its pack lifestyle and to which she has dedicated her cabins.

..... **Les Cabanes du Loup Bleu** – La Souche  
..... Caroline & Pascal Carret - tel.: +33 (0)7 67 13 55 59  
..... [www.lescabanessduloupbleu.com](http://www.lescabanessduloupbleu.com)

### Sleep in a transparent bubble at St Julien Vocance

In the heart of the forest at Saint Julien Vocance, Virginie Jacqueline has erected two transparent bubbles close to her three wooden cabins. Measuring 4 metres across, the bubbles are located on wooden terraces higher up the slope above the river, with sky above and silence all around. Only the bed is located in the bubble, the kitchen corner and the dry WC and washbasin being just outside. Wake to the sound of birdsong and the sight of your breakfast picnic basket outside your front door.

..... **Les Bulles de Saint-Julien** – Saint-Julien-Vocance  
..... tel.: +33 (0)6 18 15 15 14  
..... [www.bulles-saint-julien.fr](http://www.bulles-saint-julien.fr)

### Live the chateau life at L'Ange Gourmand, Champis

David and Sonia Lioriol already operate three guest bedrooms, a gîte de charme, and a family restaurant renowned for several generations. But now they are adding four hillside 'châteaux' made from chestnut wood and erected on stilts for uninterrupted views of the Vercors and the Alps. Each of these superior cabins will have its own terrace and private hot tub. Le Château de Bruyères is already welcoming couples and a second, Le Château des Pins, will sleep 2-4 people from Spring 2020.

..... **L'Ange Gourmand** – Champis  
..... tel.: +33 (0)4 75 58 31 89  
..... [www.angegourmand.com/en/accommodation-champis-ardeche/the-domain-des-chateaux-de-lange/](http://www.angegourmand.com/en/accommodation-champis-ardeche/the-domain-des-chateaux-de-lange/)

### Natural Chill-out at Le Folastère, St Julien du Gua

Relaxation is guaranteed at Le Folastère in the heart of the Monts d'Ardèche Regional Nature Park where three couples – parents Marjolaine and Michel with their daughters and partners – have created a timeless paradise in tune with the natural environment. In 2012, they took over a charming campsite in a 100-year-old chestnut forest and refurbished it to provide 20 terraced camping spots, as well as two colourful caravans lined with wood; a gypsy caravan with heating system; and, latest additions, two wooden cabins. One cabin has heating, a shower, and dry toilet, whilst the other, more rustic, offers a unique view over the Vercors. Yoga sessions take place in a purpose-built meditation yurt. Michel has created round spaces for harmony and added ecological plant roofs, as well as using local materials that are easy to find and to work. So all guests have to do is relax and go with the flow in this idyllic 4-hectare site. Open all year.

..... **Le Folastère** – Saint-Julien-du-Gua  
..... Marjolaine Nadal and Michel Spaan  
..... tel.: +33 (0)4 75 66 85 04  
..... [www.le-folastere.fr](http://www.le-folastere.fr)



© BM - ADT07

## Stay in an eco-friendly gîte:

### Au Fil de Soi, Issamoulenc – low impact; high satisfaction



© BM - ADT07



Passionate about looking after oneself and being in harmony with nature, Jérôme and Anne Legros dreamed of a place that radiated wellbeing. And in an old weaving room at Issamoulenc, they have been able to create somewhere that perfectly encapsulates their philosophy. Their two eco-gîtes – one for 4 guests; the other, 15 – are soundproofed with woodwool. Floors come from sustainable forest and paint is solvent-free. In fact everything they have used has the least possible impact on the environment, including upcycled furniture, all of which has earned them the European Eco Label. They also organise yoga and writing classes, and hope to restore an old building for artists, students, and anyone wanting to find peace surrounded by nature.

..... **Au Fil de Soi** - Issamoulenc

..... Tél. : 04 75 64 06 73

..... [www.aufildesoio7.fr](http://www.aufildesoio7.fr)

### L'Olive, Payzac family-run eco-gîtes

Whilst Joceyln Vigouroux looks after the Pigeonnier vineyard, Sébastien has launched a sustainable tourism project with four pretty eco-gîtes built from wood and stone on the edge of the olive groves. Surrounded by white oaks at Payzac in the south of the Regional Nature Park of the Monts d'Ardèche, the gîtes have wood frames, vegetal roofs, and woodwool insulation, as well as a phyto-purification system for the water. Meanwhile a local designer has brought flashes of yellow and green to the modern interiors. Large wooden terraces are a temptation to just sit back and concentrate on doing not very much!

..... **Gîte L'Olive** – Payzac

..... tel.: +33 (0)6 82 43 60 51

..... [www.gites-lolive.com](http://www.gites-lolive.com)



© M. Dupont - ADT 07

### Mas Héritage Experience Weekend 100 or pick your own dates



© Mas Héritage - ADT07



Wanting to get back to nature, winemaker François Tissot bought a large abandoned property surrounded by vines near Rosières and set about converting the stable and the cellars into two eco-gîtes. Key elements include natural plaster walls, vegetal roofs, stone floors, and rainwater collection. Pushing his own boundaries at every turn, François even installed a swimming pool where the water is filtered by plants. Book by the night or try his Weekend 100 concept - zero stress and 100% pleasure. 'Guests don't have to do anything. I make local restaurant reservations for them, prepare picnics, and offer brunch on Sunday morning. Total winter weekend chill-out!'

..... **Mas Héritage** - Rosières

..... Tél.: 06 66 58 58 54

..... <https://www.gites-de-france-ardeche.com/fr/catalogue/hebergement/rosieres-2982782/mas-heritage-199708-2019/>



# CAMPING - THE 'IN' THING

Camping in Ardèche is a tradition, even a religion for a few. People came to Ardèche more than forty years ago to canoe in the gorges and to camp. They came back year after year. Today, their children come back to Ardèche with a different state of mind regarding comfort. They still camp but with all the quality, comfort and services. Thus five-star camping sites were born: beautiful establishments with swimming pools, aquatic games, sauna, spa, fitness rooms, gastronomic restaurant, children and teenagers clubs, entertainments and shows at night, nightclubs and top of the range self-catering accommodation.



©A Renaud-Goud-ADT07

## Camping and cycling along the Dolce Via

Departing from your campsite is very handy as some of them do offer rentals of cycles or mountain bikes. Join the Dolce Via from the Camping de Retourtour in Lamastre, the Mas de Champel and Eyrieux Camping, both at Les Ollières-sur-Eyrieux with direct access to this former railway track now a 'green track' (refer to 'Ardèche by bike' chapter).

### Camping de Retourtour\*\*\*\*

A heated swimming pool and a new 'city style' sports ground.

**NEW:** an unusual accommodation 'Le Nid' (the Nest) of 46 square metres with, on the upper floor, a terrace and 3 separate tents accommodating 6 people (1 double bed, 4 single beds). On the ground floor, the equipped kitchen, shower room and a terrace.

Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 06 40 71  
[www.campingderetourtour.com](http://www.campingderetourtour.com)



© Retourtour



© Lucile Clara - ADT07

### Mas de Champel\*\*\*\*

'Bivouac' tents on stilts for cyclists - or hikers - enabling to park cycles to wooden pillars underneath.  
 From 30€ per night for 2 people

Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 66 23 23  
[www.masdechampel.com](http://www.masdechampel.com)

### Eyrieux Camping\*\*\*\*

**NEW:** an aquatic park with 7 waterslides and one Splashpark.

In addition to the accommodation on offer, 5 deluxe mobile homes with private hot tubs on the terrace, free wifi, air conditioning, deck chairs and 'plancha' - outdoor hotplate - ! Two of them accommodate 5/7 people and three of them 10 people. Ideal for families, friends or larger groups.

Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 66 30 08  
[www.eyrieuxcamping.com](http://www.eyrieuxcamping.com)



© Eyrieux Camping

## FROM CAMPING TO GLAMPING !



© Mille Etoiles

### Mille Etoiles in Labastide-de-Virac

At the top of the Ardèche Gorges, in wild, beautiful setting, the 'Mille Etoiles' site offers yurts, lodges and wooden tents. Made by hand from oak and ash, covered with natural, cream-coloured fabric, these tents provide a harmonious living area, with no luxuries or ostentation.

In addition, a yurt accommodating up to 14 people, dedicated to hikers or mountain bikers only – the GR4 trail passes nearby.

..... **Camping Mille étoiles**, Le mas de Serret,  
07150 Labastide de Virac  
Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 38 42 77 or (0)6 10 85 04 98  
..... [www.campingmilletoiles.com](http://www.campingmilletoiles.com)

### See the night skies from a family-sized wigwam

In a quiet but family-friendly campsite close to Vallon Pond d'Arc, Isabelle Dessertenne has installed a unique style of accommodation – a two-storey wigwam made of wood and canvas, but round with a transparent 'bubble' roof for a panoramic view of the stars. Inspired by the homes of First Nations in the North American forests, the bubble at Lamping la Goule includes a kitchen corner on the ground floor and a bedroom for four upstairs. Far away from both noise and light pollution, and made with natural materials, it offers a chance to experience the night sky in comfort.

..... **Camping la Goule**, Vagnas  
Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 38 61 24 or +33 (0)6 29 91 53 34  
..... [www.campinglagoule.com](http://www.campinglagoule.com)



© R. Etienne



© R. Etienne

### Huttopia Sud Ardèche camping in unspoilt countryside

On the outskirts of Vallon Pont d'Arc in southern Ardèche, camping has been given a new look at Huttopia where environmentally cabins, tents and gypsy caravans have been sited on terraces once roamed by ancient Man. Enjoy a total chill out in this protected natural area, relax by the two pools and enjoy the tranquillity of the natural surroundings.

..... **Huttopia Sud Ardèche**, 07150 Vagnas  
Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 38 77 27  
..... <http://europe.huttopia.com/site/village-sud-ardeche/>



## CAMPSITES AND WELLNESS

### NEW – Yelloh! Village Soleil Vivarais\*\*\*\*\* in Sampzon



A brand new Spa, in the heart of the 'Les Jardins Area'. 300m<sup>2</sup> dedicated to wellness, relaxation and sport, a real haven of peace in the heart of the campsite. With top-of-the-range equipment, combining high-performance and the latest innovations: hammam, sauna, relaxing heated pool, sensory shower, ice fountain... A unique and innovative experience: the massaging chromotherapy flotation bed. Lying on a gloriously soft bed, the water-filled mattress lifts and massages the body using sophisticated pressure jets. Totally weightless, float away on a cloud in the soothing ambiance created by the light therapy.

**NEW:** a new area 'Arizona' with 10 accommodation for 4 to 6 people, with cactus, wooden bridges, white gravel, the atmosphere will invite the holiday makers to travel to a far away destination !

Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 39 67 56  
[www.soleil-vivarais.com](http://www.soleil-vivarais.com)

© Yello village Soleil Vivarais

### Domaine de Sevenier\*\*\*\*\* in Lagorce

A Relaxation area with a panoramic view towards nature, wood stove, spa in red cedar, sauna bubble, massage, aesthetic, shiatsu, fitness area. All these in accordance with the whole of the domain: wood, dry stones and noble material, which give the whole a lot of character!

Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 37 34 35  
[www.sevenier.net](http://www.sevenier.net)



© Domaine de Sévenier



### Les Ranchisses \*\*\*\*\* in Largentière

The Natur Spa, a 230m<sup>2</sup> Spa with tea room, relaxation room, treatment room, aromatic baths, steam room, sauna and beauty shop. Two outdoor heated swimming pools for families, a heated area 'aquakid' of 100sq metres dedicated for the very young ones, a covered wellness area with an indoor swimming pool, jacuzzi, sauna, Turkish baths, spa and fitness room.

**NEW:** the 'Baby Sunny'. Enjoy the Spa while the children aged from 1 are kept by a professional childminder.

Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 88 31 97  
[www.lesranchisses.fr](http://www.lesranchisses.fr)

© Les Ranchisses - ADT 07

### Aluna Vacances\*\*\*\*\* in Ruoms

A brand new indoor aquatic park with swimming pool, Jacuzzi, Turkish baths and spa for relaxation.

Rituals, scrubs and massages upon reservation as well as beauty tips, manicure and make-up. The aquatic area boasts slides, waterfalls, one heated swimming pool (in low season), one special area for swimming, whirlpools, paddling pools and solarium.

Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 93 93 15  
[www.alunavacances.fr](http://www.alunavacances.fr)  
 Aluna Vacances welcomes a 3-day music festival taking place at the campsite end of June:  
[www.aluna-festival.fr](http://www.aluna-festival.fr)

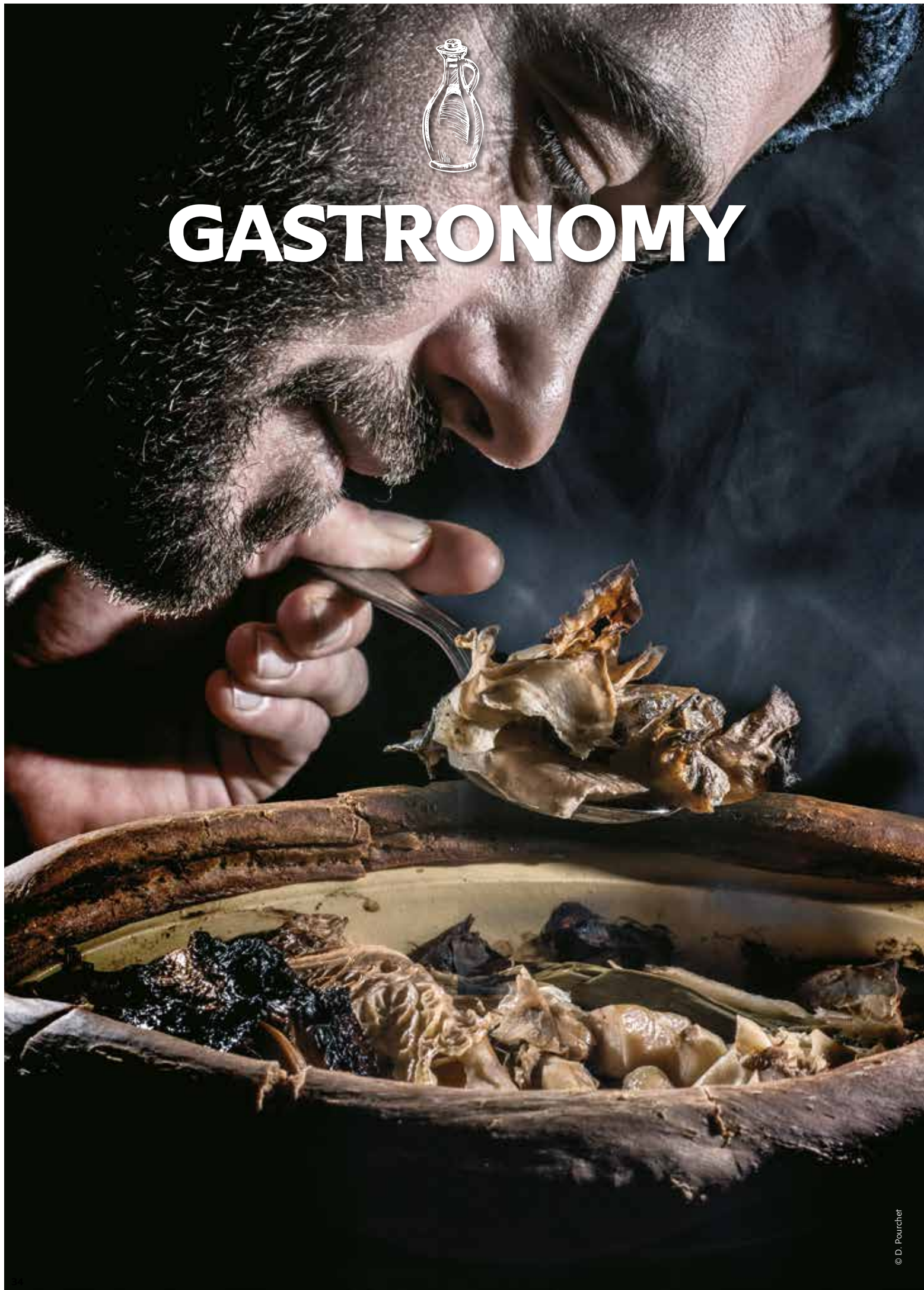


© Aluna Vacances - ADT 07





# GASTRONOMY





# MICHELIN STARS SHINE IN ARDÈCHE!

Ardèche, a gastronomic land? No doubt! Renowned for the quality of its products from the terroir, this region boasts gastronomic tables and chefs of excellence. Three exceptional addresses highlight Ardèche gastronomy. Creative, spontaneous cookings, where flavours are sublimated.

## Richard Rocle, chef at the Auberge de Montfleury in Saint-Germain

1 Michelin star in 2019



© Denis Pourcher - ADT07

Here, between the hills of the Coiron massif and the vineyards of Southern Ardèche, Richard Rocle loves to share his passion for locally-sourced food and to challenge his guests by using familiar produce in unfamiliar ways.

**Ardèche in a few words ?** Its land brings me inspiration, its roots as well as its encounters. In addition, the region offers the best seasonal products.

**Your cooking in a nutshell ?** Audacious, surprising, inventive. I always seek for new flavours and new combinations.

**About your restaurant ?** A wine-themed area with one wall entirely covered in large bottles where guests can taste the best vintages selected by Angèle Rocle. A chef's table where up to six diners can book to eat alongside the chef.

Richard and Angèle Rocle  
**Auberge de Montfleury**, Quartier de la Gare, 07070 St Germain  
Tel.: + 33 (0)4 75 94 74 13  
[www.auberge-de-montfleury.fr](http://www.auberge-de-montfleury.fr)

## Olivier Samin, chef at the Carré d'Aléthius in Charmes-sur-Rhône

1 Michelin star



© M. Risssoan - ADT07

Located near the northern "Côtes du Rhône" vineyards, the Chef has worked with such great names in gastronomy as Anne-Sophie Pic, which explains his exceptional cuisine.

**Ardèche in a nutshell ?** Nature, the great landscapes, the geographical influences from the mountains, the countryside and the south of France.

**Your cooking in one word ?** Respectful of the product and the season.

**Which product of Ardèche do you like most ?** The truffle! From a small production in Ardèche but with such a high level of quality!

**Le Carré d'Aléthius**, 07800 Charmes-sur-Rhône  
Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 78 30 52  
[www.lecarredalethius.com](http://www.lecarredalethius.com)

## Piet Huysentruyt, chef at Likoké in Les Vans

1 Michelin star



© Pieter D'Hoop

Piet takes produce from the Ardèche, adds a flavour of Belgium and a touch of the Congo, where his parents lived for many years.

**Tell us more about your discovery of Ardèche ?** I fell under its spell thanks to Belgian friends who invited me to spend a few days. I settled down here in 1998.

**Where do you find your inspiration in your unusual cooking ?** I love surprises and

be off the beaten track. My cooking offers excentricity. I love combining noble products with others, for instance lobster with black pudding!

**Which product of Ardèche do you like most ?** Many! Organic fruits, so fresh and tasty, the Coucouron, a cheese from the Ardèche mountains!

**Restaurant Likoké**, 07140 Les Vans  
Tel.: + 33 (0)6 27 83 98 57  
[www.likoke.fr](http://www.likoke.fr)

## Stéphane Polly, chef at Le Vivarais restaurant at the Helvie Hotel in Vals-les-Bains

1 Michelin star



© Hôtel Helvie

Stéphane Polly was awarded his first Michelin Star for his innovative dishes that add a contemporary twist to traditional favourites

**Ardèche in a few words ?** I was contacted to manage this restaurant, with a challenge in mind: becoming Michelin rated.

**What is your message in your cooking ?** A message of generosity, welcoming guests as my friends or family.

**Which product of Ardèche do you like most ?** The Fin Gras AOP – beef from the Ardèche mountains. We can only cook this meat from February to May, but what a treat!

**Le Vivarais**, 07600 Vals les Bains  
Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 94 65 85  
[www.hotel-helvie.com](http://www.hotel-helvie.com)

# 'LES TOQUÉS D'ARDÈCHE' CHEFS

Ten chefs from Ardèche have come together to share their passion for local produce. Taking their name from the traditional chef's hat or toque 'Les Toqués d'Ardèche' are determined to take their guests on a delicious gastronomic journey. Here are four of them. [lestoquesdardeche.fr/](http://lestoquesdardeche.fr/)

## Carabasse – a taste of the region

A passion for entertaining led Yann and Christelle to open their own small restaurant in a converted stone sheepfold. A keen cook since the age of 12, Yann loves to transform local produce, turning out dishes such as mushroom soup, ricotta, cured ham, and chestnut cream. Seasonal menus change regularly, but flavours are always authentic, plates beautifully presented, and dishes delicious at this simple, honest address.

..... **Restaurant Carabasse**, Beaulieu  
..... Tel.: +33 (0)6 17 89 73 58  
..... **[www.restaurant-carabasse.fr](http://www.restaurant-carabasse.fr)**



© La Carabasse



© Ferme auberge de la Besse

## Ferme Auberge de la Besse

At the age of 30, Matthieu Méjean is at the helm of a restaurant with a future. After working in other people's restaurants, he has returned to the old farm near Mont Gerbier de Jonc where four generations have lived before him. Inspired by Ardèche produce, Matthieu likes nothing more than to meet market gardeners growing traditional varieties of organic vegetables and sharing them with guests. His fish comes from the nearby lake, his lambs from his father, and he grows his own herbs, all served up in a spectacular 15th century vaulted hall.

..... **Ferme Auberge de la Besse**, Usclades et Rieutord  
..... Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 38 80 64  
..... **[www.aubergedelabesse.com](http://www.aubergedelabesse.com)**

## La Boria – skilled cuisine with local produce

Everything is sourced locally and home-made at La Boria, from bread to ice cream and even charcuterie. Why search for meat in the far corners of France when Ardèche has its wonderful Fin Gras beef from Mézenc? Florian Descours's cuisine is refined and imaginative, his dishes cooked at low temperatures, and his menu change every three weeks to keep pace with the seasons.

..... Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 64 48 48  
..... **[www.la-boria.com](http://www.la-boria.com)**



© La Boria



© Huttropia

## Céline Vernet is first woman to join elite band of Ardèche chefs

Latest recruit to join the prestigious group of 'Toqués' chefs is Céline Vernet of Restaurant Beauséjour at Le Béage. Her partner raises cattle, so diners can now taste the famous Fin Gras du Mézenc beef. The animals are fattened up over the winter on pure, natural hay cultivated in the mountains at an altitude of between 1100 and 1500 feet, so this sought-after AOP product is only available from February to June. Such a treat!

..... **Restaurant Beauséjour**, Le Béage  
..... Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 38 85 02  
..... **[www.beausejouraubeage.com](http://www.beausejouraubeage.com)**



# GASTRONOMY VALLEY

## Cross-region initiative offers gourmet experiences

Three major French regions – Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur are blazing a foodie trail by being the first regions to join together and launch a new tourist destination, **La Vallée de la Gastronomie – France®**

## A food lover's trip from Dijon to Marseille via Ardèche

From Spring 2020, La Vallée de la Gastronomie® will be offering a variety of foodie experiences that celebrate the diversity of the three regions. Visitors can put their own à la carte trip together according to their interests on a dedicated website - [www.valleedelagastronomie.com](http://www.valleedelagastronomie.com) - with ideas ranging from vineyard walks and wine tastings to distillery visits, Michelin-starred meals, and meetings with chefs. Each experience is located within a 45-minute drive of a motorway exit (A6/7).

..... [www.valleedelagastronomie.com](http://www.valleedelagastronomie.com)



© D. Pourcher - ADT07

## Experience the food and produce of Ardèche at 12 participating restaurants and inns. Among them:

A Gault & Millau 'One to watch' at La Boria in Privas Chef Florian Descours and his team use only local produce, including AOP Fin Gras du Mézenc beef, and they make everything themselves, including bread, ice cream, and charcuterie. Xavier cooks at low temperature and changes his menu every three weeks in keeping with the seasons.

..... <https://www.valleedelagastronomie.com/offres-gourmandes/restaurants-auberges/>



© Denis\_Pourcher-ADT07

## Wine and food activity offers Underground tastings at St-Marcel d'Ardèche

Imagine taking an underground journey through the cave network of St Marcel d'Ardèche amongst magnificent rock formations and monumental galleries. Then just when you think it can't get any better, your guide takes out bottles of wine, matured here in these caves, for a unique tasting with no sensory intrusions. Listen to a winemaker talk about the local terroir and then really appreciate the intimate relationship between the Ardèche soil and its wines aged below ground.

..... <https://www.valleedelagastronomie.com/experiences-offres/experiences-remarquables/>



© E. Kopp - ADT07

# GASTRONOMY AND TERROIR

## Meet Raphaël Pommier – organic winemaker and now restaurateur at Bourg-Saint-Andéol

© La Table du Vigneron - ADT07



Owner of the Domaine Notre Dame de Cousignac at Bourg-Saint-Andéol in the Rhône Valley, Raphaël Pommier is also something of an entrepreneur, offering chambre d'hôte accommodation and also, since May 2019, an on-site bistro, La Table du Vigneron which reopens for the season in April. Young chef Laurent Rigaill creates simple dishes using organic raw materials from local producers, but with his own signature flair. Try goat terrine with basil jelly, for instance, or tarte tatin with thyme and lemon. 'He cooks at low temperature and his sauces are extraordinary,' says Raphaël. 'Dishes are prepared in our old barn and the bistro is a gourmet stopover in the heart of the vineyards with a shady outdoor terrace, wooden benches, and upturned barrels for eating standing up. Inside we have stone walls and wooden beams. Real rustic chic!'

Raphaël is a keen cook himself and an organic bistro seemed a natural addition to his wine tourism activities. He sees his own job as an organic winemaker as being very similar to that of a chef, mixing flavours and refining the product to please the client's palate. Soon he hopes to run evenings at his cellar with wine tasting and local tapas, inviting winemakers from different parts of the département to showcase their own products. 'Wine exists to emphasise the taste of a dish. And like music that is all around us, it must accompany us but never deafen us,' says Raphaël.

### La Table du Vigneron

Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 54 61 41

[www.domainedecousignac.fr](http://www.domainedecousignac.fr)

## Florian Biscop, restaurateur in Saint-Péray

It was at the Institut Paul Bocuse in Lyon that Florian Biscop, 35, learned all about restaurant management, wines and fine tables. But equally important, he learned how to make the most of regional produce, something he'd first begun to appreciate from his grandmother who made goat's cheese in Ardèche. Under Alain Ducasse, Florian helped to develop various restaurants and, after travelling the world, he opened his own establishment in Paris before returning to Ardèche to launch first La Ruche and then L'Auberge de Crussol in Saint-Péray.

At La Ruche, his chef prepares traditional local products with a modern twist, with a wide range of wines from the Rhône valley, such as St-Péray and Cornas, whilst at L'Auberge de Crussol, opened in May 2019, traditional recipes take pride of place. Dishes are cooked in the open fireplace and the wood-fired oven in the time-honoured way. The restaurant won the prize of the 'best burger in France' in 2019! 'Thanks to Ducasse, I learned how to run several projects at the same time,' says Florian who is involved in the décor and front of house as well as the kitchen. 'So I saw no reason not to embark on my third project – a local wine bar!'

### La Ruche

Tel.: +33 (0)9 82 40 44 38

[www.laruche-saintperay.com](http://www.laruche-saintperay.com)

### L'Auberge de Crussol

Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 40 47 65

[www.aubergedecrussol.com](http://www.aubergedecrussol.com)

©La Ruche



©L'Auberge de Crussol



# THE BISTROTS DE PAYS

the south of Ardèche through the breathtaking landscapes of the Cévennes to the peaks of the Ardèche mountains. People come here to play cards, listen to amateur musicians and discuss the local sports scene, as well as to eat and drink. Each Bistrot de Pays has its own character – discover them and you discover different facets of the Ardèche lifestyle. And watch out for the festivals, culinary and cultural events organised at least three times a year, such as the 'Rando Bistrots' combining walking, meeting a local – a chef, a farmer or a craftsman – and a meal in a Bistrot de Pays.

Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 38 08 03 - +33 (0)4 75 60 77 80  
[www.bistrotdepays.com](http://www.bistrotdepays.com) ('nos bistrots'/Ardèche chapter)



## PRODUCTS OF EXCELLENCE

### Eric Martin ranks in the World's Top 20 olive oil producers

Owner of 30 hectares of organic olive groves in Oragnac l'Aven, Eric Martin has just received a top level distinction in the prestigious guide 'FLOS OLEI – 2019' from Marco Oreggia in Italy. Eric becomes the first French producer to be awarded 'World's best organic blend, lightly fruity'. Amongst his five extra virgin oils from green fruit, one in particular has been singled out for the last 10 years, La Cuvée Sauvage, a blend of three French varieties (aglandau, bouteillan and picholine) which are picked early in October to produce a powerful flavour full of character.

Price, €25 for a 25 cl bottle.

**Domaine la Magnanerie, Oragnac l'Aven**  
Tel: +33 (0)6 74 11 57 45  
[www.domainelamagnanerie.com](http://www.domainelamagnanerie.com)



© F. Courriol

### NEW: 'Tanargue' – Whisky from Ardèche

Inspired by a trip to Scotland, whisky-loving friends François Papin and Cédric Ollier made a rash bet to create their own whisky in Ardèche using nothing but local ingredients. After a first distillation in 2017, they had to wait three years for it to age in oak barrels before they can sell it in 2020 under the name of an Ardèche massif. Wanting to produce the best possible product, François and Cédric approached carefully selected local partners for each stage of the production process, guaranteeing a wealth of aromatic notes to please the palates of whisky fans.

**Just for the record:** Essential to the production of Tanargue whisky are Ardèche barley, local water, and fire for the distillation. The mountainous Tanargue is where nature elements come together: up to 2000mm of rain falls each year on the rocky slopes, which are frequently struck by lightning. Taranis – god of the sky and storms – often makes his presence felt on the 'arga' (mountain), hence Tanargue means Mountain of Thunder in local Celtic mythology.

[www.tanargue.com](http://www.tanargue.com)



© Whisky Tanargue

# WINE TOURISM

## Spotlight on 'Vignobles et Découvertes' – discovering Ardèche vineyards

The label 'Vignobles et Découvertes' makes it easier for tourists to plan weekends and short breaks amongst the vineyards using carefully selected services. All local partners bearing the label undertake to provide a quality welcome in French or other foreign language, a special insight into the world of wine, and an enthusiasm for their natural, cultural and human heritage.



### WEEKEND WITH A DIFFERENCE: 'Discover the Vineyards'

Three fabulous days to delight your tastebuds over the third weekend of October. The 'Fascinant weekend Vignobles et Découvertes' is an open invitation to find out more about three specific wine territories, Hermitage en St-Joseph, Cornas en St-Péray and Vignobles Sud Ardèche.

..... [www.fascinant-weekend.fr](http://www.fascinant-weekend.fr)

### 'Hermitage en Saint-Joseph'

Located in the heart of the Rhône Valley and the northern part of the Côtes du Rhône classification, the destination 'D'Hermitage en Saint-Joseph' is easily accessible by road and rail. Acting as a link between the Ardèche and the Drôme, the Rhône joins the Pays de l'Hermitage to the Tournonnais. The three Appellations in the area are renowned for their high quality – Hermitage, Crozes Hermitage and Saint-Joseph – and visitors can easily explore the terraced vineyards by car.

..... [www.hermitage-tournonnais-tourisme.com](http://www.hermitage-tournonnais-tourisme.com)



© B. Favre - ADT07



© M. Dupont - ADT07

### 'Vignobles Sud Ardèche'

Southern Ardèche has become the latest territory to be awarded the Vignobles et Découvertes label. This colourful area includes the IGP Ardèche vineyards, AOP Côtes du Rhône and AOP Côtes du Vivarais, as well as iconic visitor attractions such as the Ardèche Gorges, the Aven d'Orgnac, the Grotte Chauvet 2 Ardèche - formerly the Pont d'Arc Cavern - and Alba la Romaine. An area of basalt columns and rocks, of olive trees, lavender and green oaks, the countryside is as varied as the vines. Grape varieties are mostly Grenache and Syrah with smaller quantities of other varieties for both red and white wines.

..... <https://lesvinsdardèche.com/en/vignobles-et-decouvertes>

### 'Cornas en Saint-Péray'

The terraced slopes of Rhône Crussol are the home of AOC Cornas, Saint-Péray and Saint-Joseph. Be amazed while tasting the powerful Syrah, the fineness of the bubbles of Marsanne sparkling whites or by the roundness and elegance of Roussanne in still white wine. With breathtaking panoramic views towards the Rhône valley, the hills boast 450 km of hiking trails, from chapels to castles, along the refreshing streams without mentioning the impressive Crussol castle.

..... [www.rhone-crussol-tourisme.com](http://www.rhone-crussol-tourisme.com)



© CB - ADT07



# ACCOMMODATION AMIDST THE VINEYARDS

## NEW: Hôtel du Domaine du Colombier, Vallon-Pont-d'Arc

Nestled in the vineyards close to Vallon Pont d'Arc, this elegant country house with Palladian façade opens in summer 2020 as a charming 4\* hotel with 12 bedrooms. All are decorated with historic furniture, family chandeliers and local stone thanks to owner Ludovic Walbaum, a 7th generation wine maker who took on his parents' vineyard in 2000. Period detail includes an imposing chimneybreast in the living room, a vaulted cellar, and sweeping staircase. Guests can also relax on the banks of the river or travel the Ardèche Gorge by canoe. Ludovic and Chloé want their guests to enjoy local activities and can organise a weekend with chefs, a vineyard visit, or perhaps a fishing party. Now they hope to see the domain become a wine hotel.

..... [www.domaineducolombier.fr](http://www.domaineducolombier.fr)



© Villa Walbaum - ADT07



© Les Barras'k - ADT07

## NEW: Les Barras'k – stay in a wooden chalet on the Domaine du Tunnel, Saint Péray

A wooden chalet surrounded by vineyards is an idyllic spot to spend your holiday and Stéphane Robert has certainly maximised the potential of his 11-hectare domaine which is spread between several communes. His two wooden chalets with views of the Vercors are a mix of gîte and B&B, equipped with a kitchen corner, decorated with exposed beams and with a delightful terrace. Décor is neutral, the bedroom and living area forming one large space. 'Why do as you would at home when you can enjoy a surprise?' explains Stéphane.

..... [www.lesbarrask.com](http://www.lesbarrask.com)  
..... [www.domaine-du-tunnel.fr](http://www.domaine-du-tunnel.fr)





## NEW INITIATIVES ...



© Domaine de Cousignac - ADT07

### Winemaker creates unique vintage with the help of Debussy and a classical quartet

Four men with musical instruments have been – well – instrumental in helping a Rhône Valley wine maker produce a wine with a difference. Accord Tonique is the brainchild of Raphaël Pommier at Bourg-Saint-Andéol created to publicise the new AOC Côtes du Rhône Villages Saint-Andéol, and celebrate 20 years of the Cordes en Ballade festival. Raphaël asked the Debussy Quartet to play amongst the vineyards during the manual harvest. He then played their last album around the clock for three weeks during fermentation, the classical music bringing a specific vibration to the maceration of the wine which is made with no added sulphides. The wine is then filtered very slowly into ceramic containers and bottled quickly for a natural result.

..... [www.domainedecousignac.fr](http://www.domainedecousignac.fr)



© E. Kopp - ADT07

### New winemakers receive practical help at Terra Noé organic vineyard

The union of Ardèche Winemakers is currently pioneering an initiative to preserve the vineyards and attract new winemakers by launching the Société Coopérative d'Intérêt Collectif (SCI) Ardèche Vignobles. Situated in the commune of Rochecolombe, the organic Terra Noé domaine has been bought with shared funds and will become the shop window for expert knowledge as well as a pilot domaine in vinification. Today Ardèche Vignobles brings together more than 400 individuals wanting to save abandoned vines. The Society has also bought parcels of vines that will be worked by new winemakers.

..... [www.vignerons-ardechois.com/fr/participer/investir-dans-le-vignoble](http://www.vignerons-ardechois.com/fr/participer/investir-dans-le-vignoble)

# IN THE CHESTNUT LAND

## 'AOP Châtaigne d'Ardèche', the 'Queen of Ardèche'

Flourishing well in the local climate, the chestnut tree has forged the identity of the Ardèche across the centuries, and is still important today to the local agricultural economy and associated industries. So local producers were determined to gain AOP recognition for the Ardèche chestnut. Now this important quality label protects three different products – fresh chestnuts, dried chestnuts and chestnut flour – and all stages of production take place under AOP criteria according to traditional methods.

More than 65 varieties are grown here, making Ardèche the No 1 French department for chestnuts – Bouche Rouge, Pourette, Comballe, Sardonne, Précoce des Vans to name a few. Every link in the chain - from the tree to transformation into other products - is carried out locally in an industry that employs around 1 000 full-time workers.

**[www.chataigne-ardeche.com](http://www.chataigne-ardeche.com)**

Most famous and most delicate of all the chestnut products is the gourmet marron glacé. From its artisan beginnings, production moved onto an industrial scale in 1882 with the creation of Ets Faugier, followed in 1907 by Sabaton and in 1920 by Imbert.

- **Marrons Imbert** à Aubenas - Tel. : +33 (0)4 75 35 13 39 - **[www.marrons-imbert.com](http://www.marrons-imbert.com)**
- **Sabaton** à Aubenas - Tel. : +33 (0)4 75 87 83 87 - **[www.sabaton.fr](http://www.sabaton.fr)**
- **Clément Faugier** à Privas - Tel. : +33 (0)4 75 64 07 11 - **[www.clement-faugier.fr](http://www.clement-faugier.fr)**



## 'The Castagnades'

Every weekend of October and November, as the sweet chestnut trees turn golden, 11 villages in the Monts d'Ardèche Regional Nature Park celebrate the fruit of the tree that is known locally as the 'bread tree'. In centuries past, chestnuts were a staple food of the area, providing flour for people eking out a subsistence living from the land.

**[www.castagnades.fr](http://www.castagnades.fr)**





# CHESTNUT-FLAVOUR ADDRESSES WORTH VISITING...

## Castanea in Joyeuse

This new chestnut discovery centre explains the history and cultivation of this traditional product. Visitors are also able to sample a wide range of local chestnut products from craft businesses.

..... Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 39 90 66  
..... [www.castanea-ardeche.fr](http://www.castanea-ardeche.fr)



©L.Clara-ADT07

## Au Levant restaurant in Neyrac les Bains

Chef Claude Brioude offers a 100% chestnut menu : just imagine foie gras stuffed with chestnuts and served with crisp chestnut biscuits...

..... Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 36 41 07  
..... [www.hotel-levant.com](http://www.hotel-levant.com)



©L.Clara-ADT07

## 'Miellerie de Chambourlas' in St-Vincent-de-Durfort

Julien Picard and Romain Besselère are both chestnut and honey producers. They own 350 beehives from which they produce a strong chestnut honey due to the nectar from chestnut flowers.

Visit and shop on site.

..... Tel. : +33 (0)4 75 29 61 44



©M. Rissouan-ADT07

## The 'Ferme du Châtaignier' in Lamastre

Martine, Michel and Aurélien Grange have been transforming chestnuts for seven generations. Visit their workshop and then enjoy a gourmet tastings – jams, apple juice and quince, chestnut puree... all made on the premises.

..... Tel.: +33 (0)4 75 06 30 19  
..... [www.ferme-du-chataignier.fr](http://www.ferme-du-chataignier.fr)



©L.Clara-ADT07





# ARDECHE MAIN EVENTS





## SHOWS, FESTIVALS AND CULTURAL EVENTS

### Contemporary Art exhibition along the watershed

Every summer since the opening of the Watershed artistic trail, a programme of temporary exhibitions of contemporary art has been staged with the support of various cultural and heritage organisations from Ardèche and Haute-Loire. Around 20 open air installations – Les Echappées – can be found by following the mountain river valleys.

[www.lepartagedeseaux.fr](http://www.lepartagedeseaux.fr)

### Voix 360: all year round at Uzer

Lively festival of song that includes folk, jazz and a wide variety of choirs. Talented young artists from around the world in the magical location of La Bastide d'Uzer.

[www.voix360.com](http://www.voix360.com)

**1-17 FEBRUARY:**

### International Debut Film Festival in Annonay

Young film makers from all over the world come to show their debut productions in a friendly, informal atmosphere, to exchange ideas and, above all, talk to the public.

[www.annonaypremierfilm.org](http://www.annonaypremierfilm.org)

**21-22 MARCH:**

### European Art and Image Festival in Aubenas

Based on a proposal by the late Claude Moliterni, co-founder of the Angoulême Festival, this event is staged by the town to explore the relationship between strip cartoons and new types of images. Around 30 authors and European specialists take part in a programme that includes book signings, meetings, exhibitions, conferences and workshops.

[www.sallelebournot.fr](http://www.sallelebournot.fr)

**2 MAY:**

### One Day at Circus in Bourg-St-Andéol

Circus will be unexpected, everywhere in town, on the market square, in the streets. This special day is also the opportunity for anyone to practice juggling, acrobatics and balance...

La Cascade – a national centre for circus arts. Opened in 2008, La Cascade is one of the 12 National Circus Arts Centres in France, housed in the former St Joseph school at Bourg-St-Andéol. This magnificent building boasts a central cloister, huge rooms perfect for performers, and a large park offering space for creativity. Two renowned clown companies are based here, Les Nouveaux Nez and Les Colporteurs – and La Cascade is also temporary home to all kinds of artists from worldwide, projects and training courses. But the centre is nothing without an audience, so several spaces of different dimensions have been set aside for performances open to the public. Tip: snacks on spot for lunchtime in a typical gypsy caravan.

**La Cascade** – Bourg St Andéol

Tel.: +33 504 75 54 40 46

[www.lacascade.org](http://www.lacascade.org)

**30 MAY – 1 JUNE:**

### Remarkable Art Festival in Banne

The festival takes place in the medieval part of the village, in the fort's gigantic stables and accommodates about thirty unusual artists and their "remarkable" creations.

[www.festivaldebanne.com](http://www.festivaldebanne.com)

**6-7 JUNE:**

### Balloon Festival in Annonay

A colourful spectacle with about fifty balloons in the skies over the town of the two inspired inventors Etienne and Joseph de Montgolfier. On Sunday morning on the Place des Cordeliers, a historic recreation of the first hot air balloon take off.

[www.mairie-annonay.fr](http://www.mairie-annonay.fr)

**25-27 JUNE:**

### Ardèche Aluna Festival in Ruoms

Held in a stunning location on the doorstep of the Ardèche Gorges, the aim of this event is to bring together some of the big names of the French and international music scene in a lively festival before the start of the peak tourist season.

[www.aluna-festival.fr](http://www.aluna-festival.fr)

**7-19 JULY:**

### the 'Wandering Strings' chamber music festival

The Festival, under the artistic direction of the Debussy Quartet, in association with a chamber music school, brings together internationally renowned artists and young talents and offers chamber music concerts in the most beautiful heritage locations of Ardèche.

[www.cordesenballade.com](http://www.cordesenballade.com)

**8 JULY-27 AUGUST:**

### Medieval encampment in Montréal

At the castle, events, craftsmen and stands open every day except Saturday. A medieval festival with performances, events, demonstrations and a medieval dinner.

[www.chateau-montreal.com](http://www.chateau-montreal.com)

**9-14 JULY:**

### Alba la Romaine festival

A popular festive event during which internationally renowned artists will guide you from the medieval village to the ancient site: shows in the big top, youth events, clown stages, and other surprises...

[www.lefestivaldalba.org](http://www.lefestivaldalba.org)

**10-11 JULY:**

### Crussol Festival in St-Péray

The festival organised by the French singer, Zaz, who fell under the spell of Crussol site! Improvised shows, theme-based workshops as well as 4 concerts each evening with French and international artists.

[www.crussolfestival.com](http://www.crussolfestival.com)

**18-19 JULY:**

## **Vals les Bains Games Festi'Vals**

Have fun in the park of Vals les Bains casino and try your skills at a wide range of challenges and competitions. Try more than 400 games – ancient and modern – from five continents and play your way through cultures from around the world.

[www.aubenas-vals.com](http://www.aubenas-vals.com)

**18-19 JULY:**

## **Remarkable Art Festival in Banne**

The festival takes place in the medieval part of the village, in the fort's gigantic stables and accommodates about thirty unusual artists and their "remarkable" creations.

[www.festivaldebanne.com](http://www.festivaldebanne.com)

**18-19 JULY :**

## **Festival de la Chabriole at St Michel de Chabrillanoux**

Live music on Saturday, village festival on Sunday, that's the Festival de la Chabriole in St Michel de Chabrillanoux. Run entirely by volunteers, the 44th festival in 2019 will swell the local population from 50 to more than 2,500 for this one fun weekend.

[www.chabriole.fr](http://www.chabriole.fr)

**26 JULY-8 AUGUST:**

## **'Labeaume en musiques' – Labeaume Summer Festival**

A few houses, a church, a river... It could be anywhere, and yet... Labeaume is unique. Here in this village in southern Ardèche, a maze of steeply sloping paved streets form the unique backdrop to a programme of classical concerts.

[www.labeaume-festival.org](http://www.labeaume-festival.org)

**8-9 AUGUST:**

## **Medieval Festival at Désaignes**

Immerse yourself in the Middle Ages when Désaignes and its residents take a step back to medieval times. Narrow streets covered in sand, coats of arms and banners hung from facades, and colourful costumes wherever you look. Street stalls sell typical food from the period, as well as regional produce and crafts.

[www.desaignes.fr](http://www.desaignes.fr)

**16-22 AUGUST:**

## **Documentary Film Makers' Festival at Lussas**

Film makers and producers, journalists and enthusiasts meet in the village of Lussas for a week of screenings and discussions related to documentary film-making.

[www.lussasdoc.org](http://www.lussasdoc.org)

**14-22 NOVEMBER:**

## **"Rencontres des Cinémas d'Europe" film festival in Aubenas**

A large European programme of recent works or heritage films – a homage to filmmakers. Every day a guest will talk about his work in public.

[www.maisonimage.eu](http://www.maisonimage.eu)

## **TERROIR AND TRADITION**

**25-26 APRIL:**

## **From Farm to Farm throughout the Ardèche**

Farm tours, produce tastings and opportunities to buy – something for all ages.

[www.defermeenferme.com](http://www.defermeenferme.com)

**25-26 JULY:**

## **Winegrowers Festival in Ruoms**

The great summer festival of the wines of southern Ardèche, visits, tasting, performances, regional products.

[www.uvica.fr](http://www.uvica.fr)

**1ST AUGUST:**

## **Bilberry market in Mézilhac**

In the village of Mézilhac, 1100m up, browse stalls of wild bilberries grown in the Ardèche mountains, meet craftsmen and jam producers, and bilberry juices. And find out how to collect this little fruit.

[www.myrtilles-ardeche.fr](http://www.myrtilles-ardeche.fr)

**11 AUGUST:**

## **'Fête de la chèvre et du caillé doux' – the goat's cheese celebration in St-Félicien**

A day celebrating the goat and the typical cheese 'Caillé doux from St-Félicien'. In spite of different goat species, sheep and donkeys also join this event.

[www.ardeche-hermitage.com](http://www.ardeche-hermitage.com)

**12-13 SEPTEMBER:**

## **Fromaniac in St-Agrève**

Two events gathered in one: the French cheese championship as well as a producers and craftsmen market, discoveries and tastings, entertainments...

[www.fromaniac.fr](http://www.fromaniac.fr)

**16-18 OCTOBER:**

## **'Fascinant Week-end'**

Event of 'Vignobles et Découvertes' – vineyards and discoveries. Visits, discoveries, tastings... Let yourself be fascinated by wine trails in Ardèche.

[www.fascinant-weekend.fr](http://www.fascinant-weekend.fr)

**FROM MID OCTOBER TO MID NOVEMBER:**

## **the Autumn Sweet Chestnut Festival 'Castagnades d'Automne'**

The celebrated sweet chestnut festivals organized on 1 or 2 days in different villages: meetings with producers, craftsmen, artists, producers markets, tastings, roast chestnuts.

[www.castagnades.fr](http://www.castagnades.fr)



**5-6 DECEMBER:**

## **Wine market in Cornas**

Over 50 wine makers from all the northern Rhône Valley vintages come to show consumers the subtlety of their productions. Tastings of the Cornas, Saint-Joseph, Saint-Péray, Condrieu, Côte-Rotie, Hermitage and Crozes-Hermitage AOPs.

[www.rhone-crussol-tourisme.com](http://www.rhone-crussol-tourisme.com)

**DECEMBER/JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MAY/JUNE:**

## **Truffle Market in Ruoms**

Producers' market, retail sales, and the chance to discover the gastronomic treat that is the 'black diamond'.

[www.truffes-ardeche.fr](http://www.truffes-ardeche.fr)

## **SPORTS MEETINGS**

**1-2 JULY**

### **Tour de France in Privas and Le Teil**

The Tour de France is back in Ardèche for two dates ! Two towns will welcome this worldwide-known event, for the arrival in Privas on 1st July and the departure from Le Teil on 2nd July.

[www.letour.fr/en](http://www.letour.fr/en)

**29 FEBRUARY :**

### **'La Faun Environnement Classic de l'Ardèche'**

Amateur and professional cyclists from all over France and beyond will be starting the season with 'La Faun Environnement Classic de l'Ardèche', a cycling race amidst Cornas vineyards for this 2017 edition.

[www.boucles-drome-ardeche.fr](http://www.boucles-drome-ardeche.fr)

**12 APRIL:**

### **Pont d'Arc Nature Race in Vallon Pont d'Arc**

For lovers of extreme sensations: mountain biking, canoe-kayak, river fording, running in varied environments...

[www.raid-nature-vallon.fr](http://www.raid-nature-vallon.fr)

**1-2 MAY:**

### **Ardèche Trail 'the Roman trail' in Désaignes**

10,20, 34 or 57 km solely on paths and long distance footpaths in the middle level mountains. A great loop using the Roman Road, passing through the Château de Rochebonne with an unforgettable view over the Sucs chain.

[www.ardeche-trail-la-voie-romaine.com](http://www.ardeche-trail-la-voie-romaine.com)

**17 MAY :**

### **Raid'O Féminin in Montréal**

A sporting event dedicated to women, for any level. Several tours: 2 days with a night at a bivouac (45 km) or in 1 day (25 km). The activities on offer are running, mountain biking, orientation race, rifle shooting...

<http://rof.raidlinks.fr>

**21-24 MAY:**

### **Ardèche Slackline Meeting**

Fun sport and nature festival featuring slackline - tightrope walking - and other open air sports. Demonstrations and initiations; exhibitor village; wellbeing section; activities such as acroyoga - a combination of yoga and acrobatics -, forest adventure, caving etc. Adventure cinema and breath-taking freestyle demonstrations.

[www.ardecheslackline.com](http://www.ardecheslackline.com)

**30 MAY-14 JUNE:**

### **National Cycling Festival**

Practised either for leisure or a sports, in towns or in land, 20 million French people have a bike. Cycling is a trendy activity and is celebrated each year in June.

[www.feteduvelo.fr](http://www.feteduvelo.fr)

**6 JUNE:**

## Trail Race along the Giants' Path from Thueyts

Choose from 3 itineraries of 51k, 12.4km or 10km along the Giants' Path through the high Ardèche Valley. Register ahead online at:

[www.lachausseedesgeants.com](http://www.lachausseedesgeants.com)

**19-22 JUNE:**

## the 'Ardéchoise' cycling race in Saint-Félicien

The 'Ardéchoise', the world's greatest cycle race is open to all: sportsmen, tourists or trekkers. It attracts over 15,000 participants. Several circuits start from St Félicien and wind through the superb wild landscapes of Ardèche. Along the way, small villages are in full festival mode with performances, competitions and tastings. An unforgettable atmosphere!

[www.ardechoise.com](http://www.ardechoise.com)

**26-28 JUNE:**

## Monts d'Ardèche Mountain Biking Championship, Le Cheylard

A very special 3-day mountain biking event, both for the physical character of the course and the unique environment.

[www.raidvtt-ardeche.com](http://www.raidvtt-ardeche.com)

**9-11 JULY:**

## International Triathlon of the Ardèche Gorges

A challenge for individuals or teams of two or three people, open to everyone, from general public to advanced triathletes in the exceptional environment of the Ardèche Gorges. Adapted distances for 6-12 years old.

[www.triathlondesgorges.com](http://www.triathlondesgorges.com)

**2-8 SEPTEMBER:**

## International Female cycling race of Ardèche

A major event gathering the best female cyclists, world champions and Olympic ones.

[www.tcfia.com](http://www.tcfia.com)

**6 SEPTEMBER:**

## Ardèche Marathon in the Eyrieux Valley



A sports adventure of 42,195km and a change in altitude of 329m, which is an invitation to discover this wild valley, known for its Dolce Via, the former railway track now converted into a 'green track' along the Eyrieux river.

[www.marathon-ardeche.org](http://www.marathon-ardeche.org)

**6 SEPTEMBER:**

## 'Trail des 36000' in Vallon-Pont-d'Arc

Last of the competitive Trail races, a choice of three routes through a landscape that resonates with the echo of prehistoric man. 36000 is the number of years that separate us from the first cave paintings left in Grotte Chauvet, now listed by UNESCO.

<https://traildes36000.com>

**19-22 SEPTEMBER:**

## International Petanque Championship, Ruoms

The must-see event for all petanque fans with three days of matches between the elite national and European players.

Events for pairs, threes, and teams of men, women or juniors.

[www.ruoms-international-petanque.org](http://www.ruoms-international-petanque.org)

**20 SEPTEMBER:**

## Ardèche Run in the Pays d'Aubenas-Vals-Antraigues

A 22km run from Aubenas to Antraigues going through Genestelle pass. Competitors can enjoy panoramic views of the Ardèche Cévennes whilst they compete as individuals, in relays, and even in a team with a child.

[www.ardeche-run.com](http://www.ardeche-run.com)

**7 NOVEMBER:**

## International Ardèche Gorges Marathon

In a friendly atmosphere of fair play, Olympic champions, world champions and top athletes join amateur canoeists and kayakers in the prestigious setting of the Ardèche Gorges for a legendary 35 km descent.

[www.marathon-ardeche.com](http://www.marathon-ardeche.com)





**Agence de Développement Touristique de l'Ardèche / Ardeche Tourist Board**

Pôle Bésignoles – 6 route des Mines – 07000 Privas - France

Tel. +33 (0)4 75 64 04 66

**[www.ardeche-guide.com](http://www.ardeche-guide.com)**

**[www.ardeche-tv.fr](http://www.ardeche-tv.fr)**

Twitter : @ ArdecheGuide

Instagram : @ardeche\_tourisme

Facebook : « A la conquête de l'Ardèche » [www.facebook.com/ardeche.saga](http://www.facebook.com/ardeche.saga)

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