



# The essential 2025



Cévennes  
d'Ardèche

*Our nature reveals you.*

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# An Ardèche land with cévennes accents

*As the link between the Cévennes National Park and the Monts d'Ardèche Regional Nature Park, the Cévennes d'Ardèche is a land of profound harmony between man and his natural environment.*

**As a committed 'Pleine Nature' hub,** the preservation of our natural environment and the enhancement of our heritage are firmly rooted here, and everyone is committed to perpetuating and passing on this shared heritage. **Cooperation and the network of associations are the driving forces behind local life.**

The values of resistance, respect and hospitality are written into the DNA of this land of conviction. The Cévennes d'Ardèche are alive and well, rich in their past, but also resolutely turned towards to the future.

Here, we savour the taste of freedom and cultivate the art of living.

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Observation platform - Montselgues



# An exceptional region

*Thanks to its relief and the diversity of its natural environments, the Cévennes d'Ardèche offers a host of majestic vantage points from which to contemplate the region. As the seasons go by, this precious land reveals treasures of colour it displays to the world like paintings.*



Orientation table - Tour de Brison

**The Tanargue massif is a prime example! Reaching an altitude of 1,500m, its name means «the mountain of thunder» in Celtic.**

Every year in mid-June, around fifteen sheep farmers and their ewes climb to the summits of the Tanargue to enjoy the last collective summer pasture in Ardèche.



This gathering marks a high point in pastoral life, but also plays an important role in maintaining biodiversity by keeping these natural areas open and promoting the richness of the ecosystems.

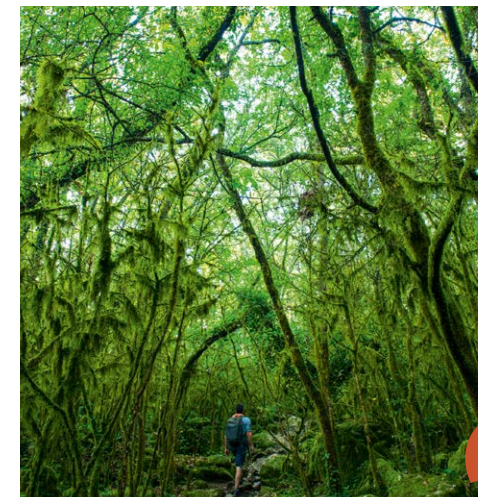
Its ridges, dominating the valleys and their steep slopes, are also a magnet for sports enthusiasts: paragliders, climbers, trail runners, mountain bikers, hikers...

You can take in the breathtaking scenery from the **Col de Meyrand viewpoint**, just above the village of Loubaresse, or take

time to admire the flora and fauna from the vulture and landscape observation platform at Montselgues.

Further down on the plain, the enchanting **Bois de Païolive** overlooks the impressive **Chassezac gorges**. Walking around this karst plateau, covered in white oak forests, is like open-air caving.

This unique ensemble is an Espace Naturel Sensible (ENS - Sensitive Natural Area); in many respects, its biodiversity is remarkable. Well-marked footpaths and mountain bike trails take you through this mineral labyrinth in complete peace and quiet.



“ A testament to the tremendous wealth of the local environment, **70 %** of the Cévennes d'Ardèche area benefits from nature protection measures. ”



## 4 viewpoints to feast your eyes on

### The col de Meyrand at Loubaresse

**The Col de Meyrand, on the Tanargue massif, is a gateway to the Ardèche mountains.**

At Loubaresse, follow the D24 road for 2 km towards St-Etienne-de-Lugdares. An orientation table made from local chestnut wood stands by the roadside, on your right. From here, you can admire a wide panorama of the Beaume valley and village of Valgorge.

On a clear day, you can even see Mont Ventoux.

From Col de Meyrand, you can take the GR de Pays Tour du Tanargue hiking route (IGN map 2838 OT Largentière/La bastide-puylaurent), discover the church with the fortified tower of Loubaresse, take a break at the village bistro, admire the paragliders taking flight or climb the Coucoulude rock climbing site.



### The orientation table at Banne castle

**Set between sandstone and limestone, the village of Banne nestles at the bottom of the foothills of the Cévennes.**

The oldest part of the village, Le Fort, is a tangle of cobbled streets and staircases leading under the arches of the houses to the ruins of the Château. From up there, the orientation table offers one of the most beautiful views of the southern Ardèche. It's an ideal place to take in the entire Bois de Païolive and the limestone lowlands as far as the eye can see. You can also see the Tanargue and the Alps in the distance.



### The Chassezac gorges in Bois de Païolive

**From the Corniche path (4 km), which starts at the Estong car park in the Bois de Païolive, you can admire the magnificent Chassezac gorges.**

Take care as the path is on a cliff face.



### The Serre de Barre at Les Vans

**The Serre de Barre is a mountain in the foothills of the Cévennes.**

It rises to 909 m above the village of Naves and opens onto the superb meandering Chassezac river. It is also a superb take-off area for paragliders. From the summit, you can see the snow-capped Alps and Mont Ventoux to the east, Mont Lozère to the west, as well as the Tanargue massif and Monts d'Ardèche to the north. One massif follows another. The countless hamlets and villages scattered across the valley are a spectacular sight in themselves.

The watchtower, the highest point of the Serre de Barre, can be reached via a path from the D901 road which comes from Les Vans in the direction of Villefort (8 km). The car park is on the right, just after the hamlet of Les Combes. The path starts on the other side of the road, 50 m further up on the left. The yellow markings start at the sign «La Champ - Les plots». The path winds through chestnut trees before leading to a track you have to climb for 4 km to reach the Serre de Barre ridge.





## Connect with nature

Here, time seems to stand still... Take a break in nature, take time to live, to feel, to share... for nothing, for yourself, for the challenge and for wonder. Enjoy the fleeting moments that leave behind life's most beautiful memories.

### Art along the way on the Lauzes trail

Combining art and walking, the 14km Lauzes trail in St-Mélany invites visitors to admire contemporary works created in situ and to take a fresh look at the Cévennes landscapes.

Events, concerts, storytelling walks and theatrical performances are all part of this look at the Drobie valley.



➤ [surlesentierdeslauzes.fr](http://surlesentierdeslauzes.fr)

### Experience a «forest bath»

The bain de forêt is the French version of the Japanese term shinrin yoku (forest bath).

It's an ancient practice that brings us back to the present moment, connecting us to what surrounds us: opening our senses, taking time, contemplating, with the sole aim of feeling fully alive.



➤ To find your English-speaking guide, contact the tourist office.

## NEW

### The vulture and landscape observation platform in Montselgues

Situated near the rendering area, this 100% local chestnut wood observation platform and telescope offer a unique opportunity to get up close and personal with the majestic vultures and the surrounding landscape.

Educational panels explain the inseparable link between farming and these great gliders.

Above the hamlet of Teste Rouge, follow the signs to the platform about 500m away.

To make the most of the scenery on the Montselgues plateau and to ensure the vultures' peace and quiet, **we recommend that you park in Montselgues and walk to the platform from the road.**

## Your head in the stars

Have you ever admired the sky on a summer's night? In Cévennes d'Ardèche, the celestial vault offers a fascinating spectacle.

There are preserved places, recognised for the exceptional quality of their night-time landscapes, labelled **International Dark Sky Reserves (RICE)**. There are only around twenty in the world, including 5 in France. With a total surface area of 3,560 km², the RICE of the Cévennes National Park is the largest in Europe.

The Monts d'Ardèche Regional Nature Park is currently applying for this label. The quality of the skies in our valleys is exceptional, as is the case of Saint-André-Lachamp, a commune awarded the 'Starry Towns and Villages' label by the Association Nationale pour la Protection du Ciel et de l'Environnement Nocturnes (National Association for the Protection of the Night

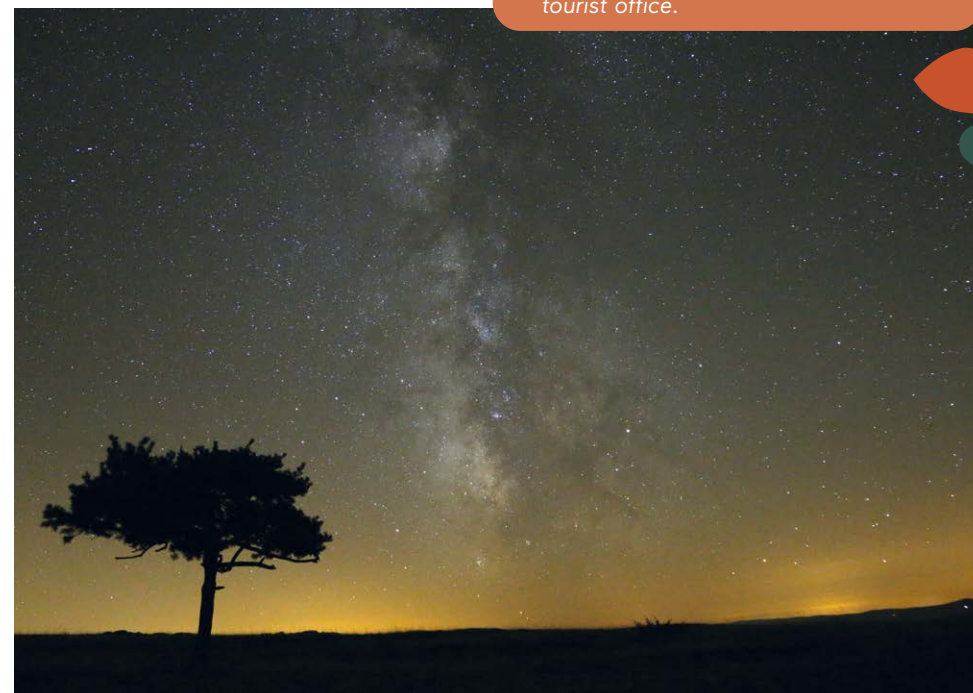
Sky and the Environment) and right in the centre of the core zone of the future Monts d'Ardèche International Dark Sky Reserve. From 2025, a programme of events focusing on astronomy and nocturnal biodiversity, free and open to all, will provide a better understanding of our incredible starry sky and why it should be preserved.

➤ Consult the agenda or ask for the program at the tourist office.

### Enter the legend of the constellations

Let us guide you through a nighttime observation of the starry sky, punctuated by mythological tales from Greek legends. You'll learn to recognise stars and remarkable constellations.

➤ For more information, contact the tourist office.



## A unique geological crossroad

There is a unique geological crossroads in the Cévennes d'Ardèche that has generated a great variety of different soils and an extraordinary diversity of landscapes in such a small area of land.

The identity of Cévennes d'Ardèche is built on this geological diversity.

### Geosites UNESCO

Young volcanoes, waterfalls and basaltic organs, granite chaos, sites with dinosaur footprints... 61 geological sites of major interest, or 'geosites', make up the Monts d'Ardèche Geopark.



The Monts d'Ardèche Geopark is one of just 200 areas on five continents to have been awarded the Unesco label. By showcasing places where the history of the earth can be understood, visitors are invited to gain a better understanding of human history and the exceptionally varied land on which we live.

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



### The Cirques de Naves

The Cirques de Naves geotrail leads you through superb, unspoilt landscapes, between the slopes of the Cévennes and the Mediterranean garrigue (heathland).

The circuit, which forms a 4km loop, passes through a limestone area compiling 18 million years of Earth's history. All this geological history, which has had a major impact on buildings, fauna, flora and agriculture, is explained at 11 stops equipped with interpretation tables.



### The granite chaos at Montselgues

The chaos de Montselgues are granite chaos (landscape of rocky blocks), located to the north-east of the commune of Montselgues, in places called Serre de la Dame, Genest, Les Rancs and Le Petit-Paris.

Other natural attractions include three peat bogs on the Montselgues plateau. They are home to unique flora and fauna (carnivorous plants, dragonflies, butterflies, etc.) in stark contrast to the neighbouring mountain moorland.

### NEW

### The Vineyard trail at Rosières

If you're interested in wine, you'll find one of the local gems along the Vine Trail in Rosières – Chatus! The sandstone soil on the manmade terraces provides the ideal conditions for this typical Cévennes grape variety to flourish.

The Sentier des Vignes is a 6km Discovery Trail that's signposted and easily accessible if you park in front of the Wine Cooperative in Rosières.



You can download the routes descriptions for free on [rando.cevennes-ardeche.com](http://rando.cevennes-ardeche.com)

### The interpretation trail of the hamlet of Thines and its rock

The Rocher de Thines (Thines Rock), the last site to be designated and developed, is an extraordinary example of how the ancient Cévennes people used the riches of the earth to create the remarkable architecture of the church and village.

Comprising ten themed panels, the 2km trail (including the approach walk to the hamlet) guides you through the geological, architectural and historical wealth of the hamlet. You'll find unique archive photos, including a rare one taken by the legendary Robert Doisneau. To extend the experience, a booklet is on sale at the Maison du Gerboul and the tourist office.





# Villages & hamlets

*A land of character and contrast. The Cévennes d'Ardèche are a multitude of small massifs carved into deep valleys that are home to picturesque villages bathed in light. Hamlets of limestone, sandstone, shale or granite reveal the history of our regions.*



Maps of Joyeuse, Les Vans and the villages of Banne and Naves are available for free at the Tourist Office.

## Villages of Character

Perched up high or hidden away, these «Villages de Caractère®» have that little something the others don't! Narrow streets, cobbled lanes and mysterious passageways add to the charm of these picturesque villages. There are 21 in total in the Ardèche department. From July to September, enjoy guided tours of «Banne, cité gourmande» and «Naves, de calades en fossiles».



### Naves

**Located in the foothills of the Cévennes and nestled in its olive covered hillsides, it is in a unique geological crossroads.**

The old village of Naves will charm you with the many remains of houses from the Middle Ages or the Modern era: gable wall, mullioned window with or without chamfer...

From Les Vans, access the village of Naves on a short footpath (30-minute walk) marked in yellow starting from Rue du Bourdaric, on the corner of the bar, opposite the post office. After a few hundred metres, take the dirt road from Naves to the village. The return journey to Les Vans takes the same route.

**Every Tuesday at 5.30pm from July to September, take part in the guided tour 'Naves, from calades to fossils'.** Take an old mule track and discover Naves. Each alleyway is full of architectural surprises and geological wonders rich in fossils. Each rock has its own story. A unique opportunity to go back in time to the appearance of life on earth.

Only in french. Duration 1h30.  
Price: €5 (Free for under-16s).  
Booking essential at the Tourist Office:  
+33 (0)4 75 37 24 48



### Banne

**The personality of this village has been forged through its two districts.**

The district around the church, whose pointed bell tower can be seen from the plain, echoes the so-called 'Fort' district, perched on a rocky peak, with an astonishing panorama.

A former medieval castle town, the remains of a late medieval castle can be found along a maze of narrow streets. Only the stables remain intact. Today, they are a prestigious venue for cultural events: shows, exhibitions and Bann'art, the Festival d'Art Singulier. Around the fountain in the shade of the plane trees, you can't help but succumb to the timeless atmosphere of the village square, which hosts a craft and designer market every Monday evening in July and August.

**Every Monday at 5pm from July to September, take part in the 'Banne, cité gourmande' tour.** Let yourself be guided through a fortified village with a rich and eventful past, and enjoy a selection of products from local producers at the end of the tour!

Only in french. Duration 1h30.  
Price: €5 (Free for under-16s).  
Booking essential at the Tourist Office:  
+33 (0)4 75 37 24 48





## Thines, jewel of the Cevennes

**Getting to the village of Thines, recently classified as a UNESCO Geosite, is a journey in itself.**

The access road is narrow and winding before giving way to the 600 m long Sentier des poètes. It's a journey you'll need to make to fully appreciate the beauty of this place. A true paradise on earth, where feelings of stress and time no longer exist. This typically Cévenol village, perched on a rocky promontory, dominates the entire valley of the same name. The Romanesque church is a jewel of the 12th century. Built in two-tone pink sandstone, it's a real

gem. Stop off at the Maison du Gerboul to sample some local produce.

**For the more curious**, a 10-panel interpretation trail guides you through the hamlet's geological, architectural and historical wealth. .

**A tour of the village is offered every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. by the «Friends of Thines».**

**Information: +33 (0)6 25 57 93 04**



## Les Vans, at the convergence of the valleys

**For a long time, the roads stopped here to make way for the mountain trails.**

In addition to trading activity, there were also craftsmen. Buildings in the old center bear witness to this history, with a store or vaulted room on the first floor used as a workshop, office, stable or cellar. .

Even today, the town of Les Vans is the urban center of an extensive rural catchment area. Lively all year round, it's a pleasure to stroll through its lively shopping streets. .

## One museum, five exhibitions

Located on the edge of the old town center, the Musée des Vans is housed in the buildings of a former convent and silk spinning mill. Its collections of geology, archaeology, ethnography and medicine reveal the nature, culture and personalities of the people who have shaped this historic region.





## Joyeuse, the medieval town

The remnants of the town's ramparts, its many narrow streets and vaulted passageways invite you to explore the town's rich past and architectural heritage. Numerous artists and craftsmen have taken over the alleyways, inviting you to push open the doors of their workshops. .

### Castanea - Ardèche chestnut discovery area

In the heart of the village, you can also visit Castanea - Espace de découverte de la châtaigne d'Ardèche. A museum space in a magnificent 17th-century building, where you can learn all about this emblematic local fruit.

➤ [castanea-ardeche.com](http://castanea-ardeche.com)

### Dramatized guided tours of the Duchy of Joyeuse

Funny, entertaining and instructive, the tour of the medieval city is punctuated by the appearance of historical figures who have left their mark on the city's history or legend. Every Wednesday and Thursday at 8.45pm in July and August (only in French).

Bookings at the tourist office:  
+33 (0)4 75 37 24 48



### Polinno - Trait d'Union

An innovation hub dedicated to arts and crafts in southern Ardèche, featuring a business incubator, a digital fabrication workshop, a permanent collective arts and crafts boutique run by local craftspeople and artists, and a traveling digital museum...

➤ [polinno.art](http://polinno.art)

### A 10-minute walk from downtown

Head for Espace André Gervais and Petit Rocher beach, where you can enjoy a picnic area and riverside beach, a play area with children's games, a volleyball court, soccer stadium, skate park, sports equipment and tennis courts (courts can be reserved at the tourist office).

## Enjoy free family outings in the villages

### Randoland

Take up the challenge and solve the riddles of L'inspecteur Rando with your family!

Children follow the rhythm of the walk and become guide-explorers in the villages of Joyeuse, Les Vans, Ribes, Payzac, Banne and Berrias. From riddles to puzzles, they never see the time passing!

Difficulty of puzzles according to age: 4/6 years, 7/9 years and over 10 years.

Free to collect from the tourist office or download from [cevennes-ardeche.com](http://cevennes-ardeche.com) (only in French).



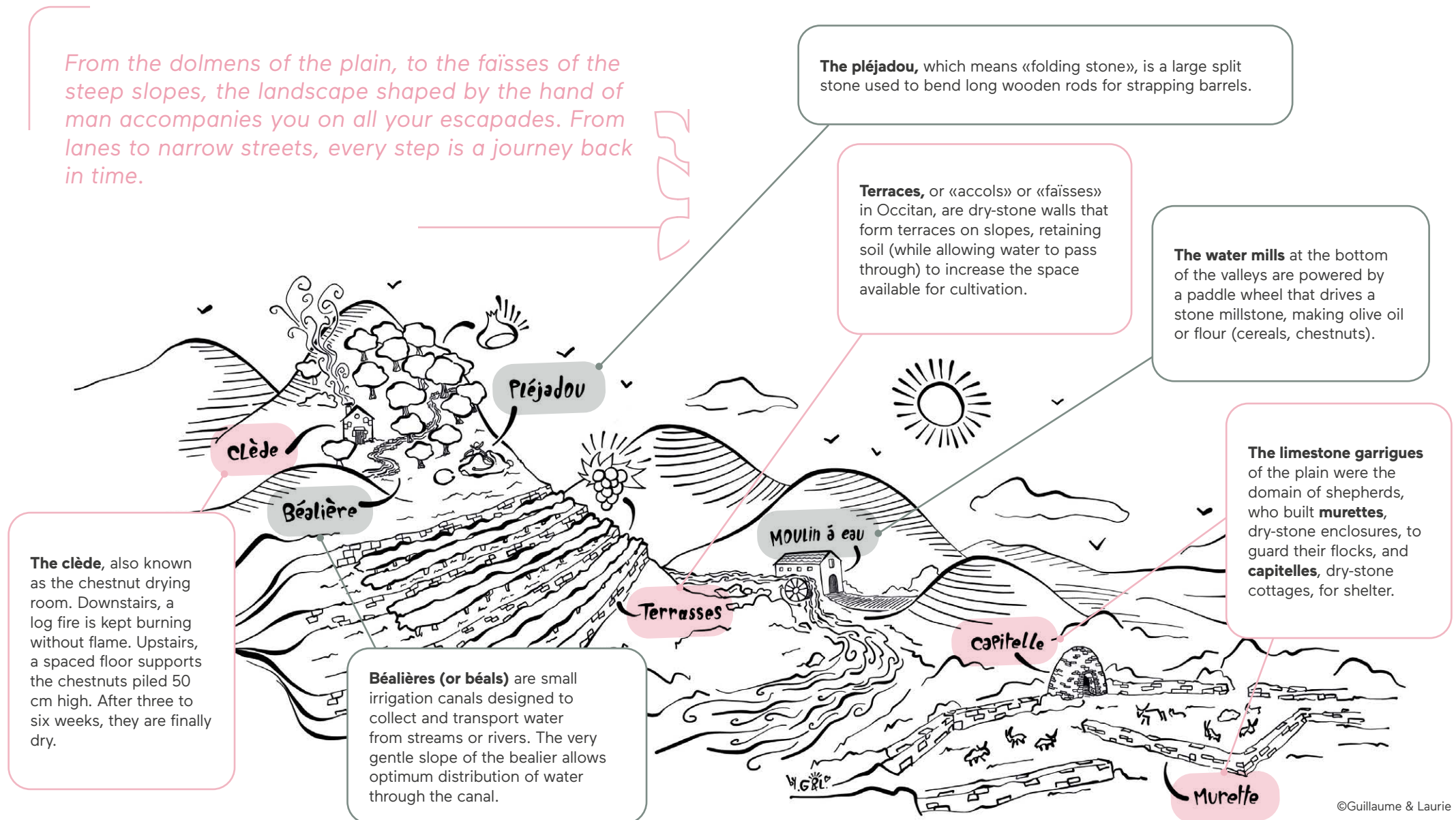


# Our stones have a history

*From the dolmens of the plain, to the faïsses of the steep slopes, the landscape shaped by the hand of man accompanies you on all your escapades. From lanes to narrow streets, every step is a journey back in time.*

## A shaped landscape

In the face of raw nature, the Cévennes farmer has resisted and adapted. He has turned a constraint into an asset. Over the generations, they have shaped these landscapes, making life on the slopes possible. Small-scale agricultural heritage can be seen everywhere in the Cévennes d'Ardèche. For centuries, farmers have been shaping the landscape with numerous stone structures.





## Dolmens in Ardèche



**An unsuspected treasure trove, 56 dolmens lie hidden in the limestone landscape of the Cévennes d'Ardèche.**

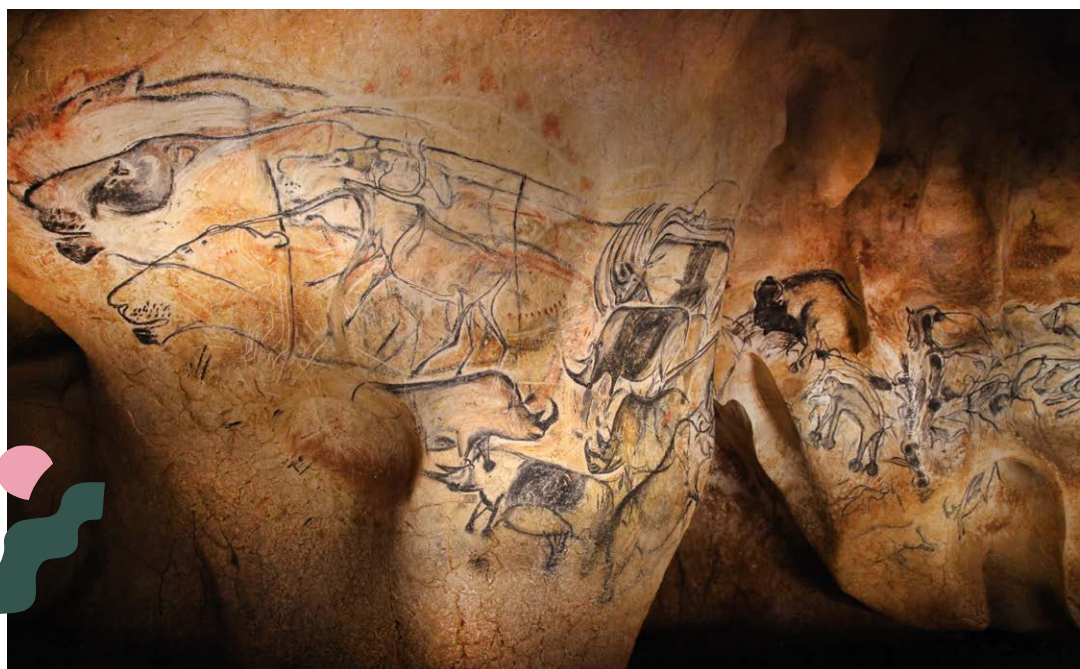
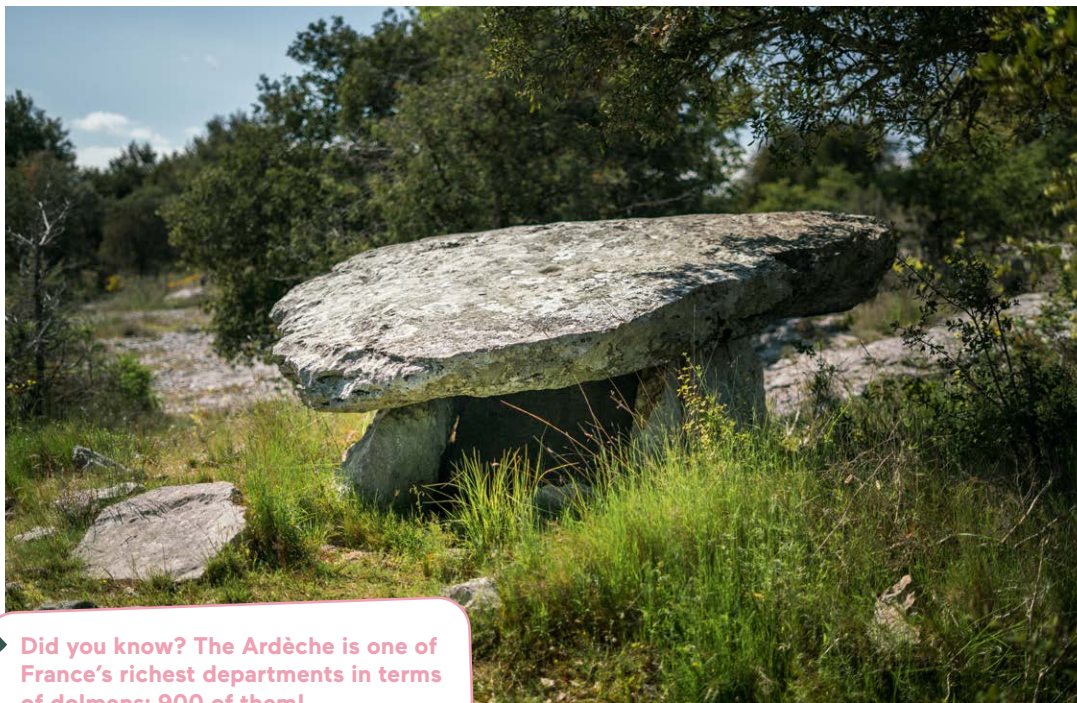
They bear witness to a very ancient human presence dating from the end of the Neolithic to the Early Bronze Age (3,300 to 1,700 BC).

5 hiking trails and a lookout point allow you to discover the dolmens of southern Ardèche on your own.

The Chemins & Dolmens brochure is available free of charge from the tourist office.

**Themed guided tours, exhibitions and workshops** organized throughout the year offer captivating experiences on the theme of dolmens. Consult the agenda of the tourist office.

**Did you know? The Ardèche is one of France's richest departments in terms of dolmens: 900 of them!**



## Grotte Chauvet 2, unique in the world

**Enter the world's largest cave replica, Grotte Chauvet 2**

The 3,500 m² facsimile is larger than life, and features ancient cave paintings over 36,000 years old.

To help you learn all you need to know on the subject, the site also offers a visit to the Aurignacian gallery, a fun museum space, as well as events for all ages during school vacations and weekends.

Tickets available at the tourist office or on [grottechauvet2ardeche.com](http://grottechauvet2ardeche.com).

While you're here, take a detour to the Ardèche Gorges and admire the Pont d'Arc.

## The templar commandery at Jalès

**The Templar commandery at Jalès bears witness to the epic of the Crusades and the history of military orders, from the Knights Templar to the Knights of Malta.**

Built in 1140, it is one of the oldest commanderies in Europe, and one of the very few Templar buildings where all the original buildings have been preserved...

**Guided tours** are available in July and August, on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 4pm and Wednesdays at 10am.

**A family discovery game «Enquête à Jalès»** (Investigation in Jalès) on the theme of the Templars is organized every Tuesday and Friday at 10am in July and August.

**For music lovers**, the Commanderie hosts the Music'à Jalès festival every summer. You'll love swinging under the stars in the large 18th century courtyard.

[jales.fr](http://jales.fr)





# Sports & leisure activities

Without doubt, our exceptional nature is also due to everyone's commitment to the environment.

Recognition as a **Pôle Pleine Nature** is part of this dynamic. This label recognizes areas that are committed to promoting responsible outdoor activities accessible to all, and guarantees a varied range of quality activities.

► Check out the list of our partners !  
Scan this QR code



Our qualified guides are passionate about outdoor activities, and know how to reconcile sporting activities with respect for fragile environments.

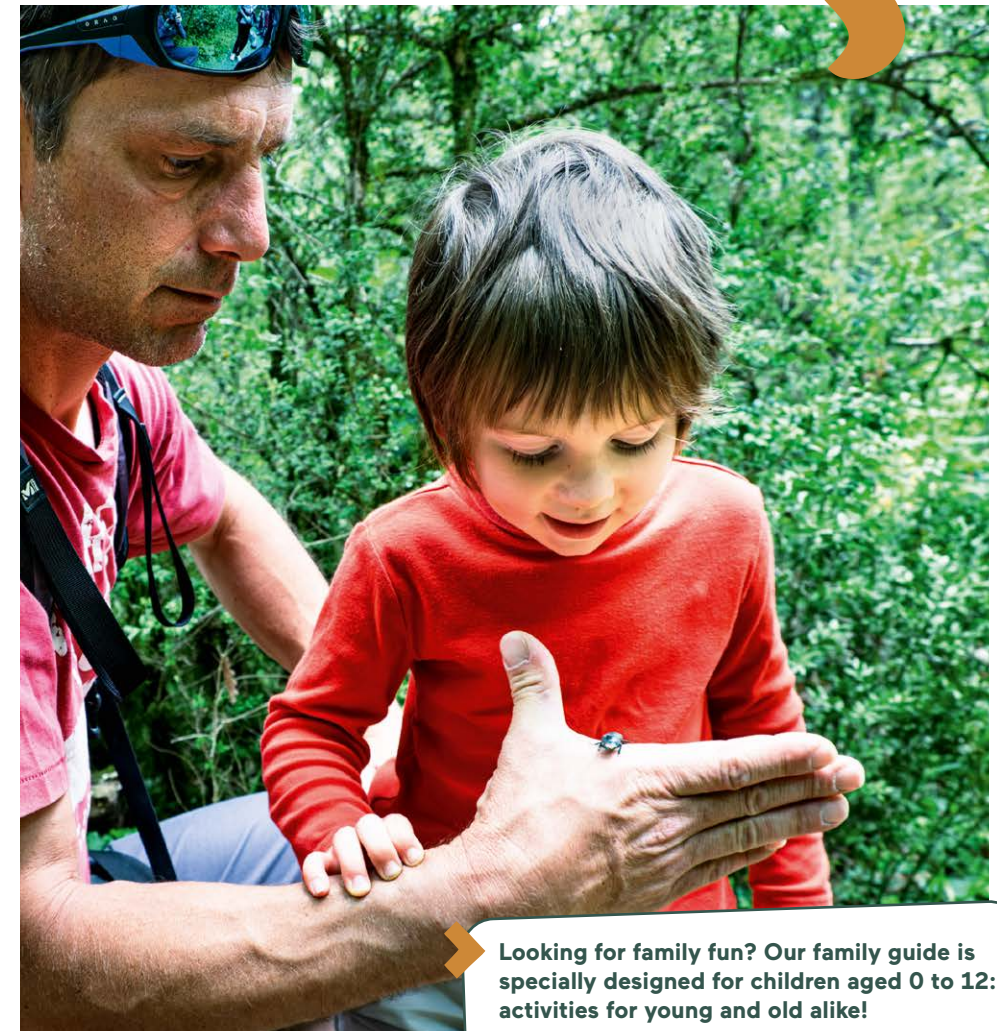
Benefit from their experience and know-how to enjoy new activities in complete safety, while limiting the impact on the flora and fauna that surround us.

others, so that everyone can enjoy it to the full, sharing nature and respecting all users are essential.

## Conviviality and safety...

Two good reasons to respect the rules of good behavior in nature.

A work space for some, a playground for



► Looking for family fun? Our family guide is specially designed for children aged 0 to 12: activities for young and old alike!



## By foot

Between breathtaking vistas and silent immensity, exceptional moments are often experienced on the trails that criss-cross the territory.

37 hikes and walks, 10 permanent trail routes, 1 K.V. (Kilomètre Vertical) and 3 itineraries are available free of charge on our hiking portal [rando.cevennes-ardeche.com](http://rando.cevennes-ardeche.com)

In just one click, you can download the step-by-step instructions (in English), the gpx track or the points of interest for your activity.



Other practical and clever tools allow you to explore the region:

- A **hiking map-guide** to locate at a glance the most beautiful hikes in the area. Distributed for free at the tourist office.
- The **Rando Parc des Monts d'Ardèche** application lets you find the hikes selected by the Parc naturel régional des Monts d'Ardèche anywhere, anytime, on your smartphone.



### Trail courses

Test your endurance on our 10 trails and our **Kilomètre Vertical**, fully signposted. Our associations also offer several events throughout the year.



#### NEW

##### The Vertical Kilometer of Valgorge

Take up the vertical challenge with almost 1,000m of D+ over 5.6 km.

A steep ascent will take you to the Ron de Couculude (1,450m altitude) and its breathtaking view of the Monts d'Ardèche.



## An unforgettable experience: 1 territory, 3 unique itineraries!

### GR® de Pays Tour of Tanargue (4 days/3 nights)

Following in the footsteps of shepherds and their flocks, this **62-kilometer** hiking trail in the heart of the Monts d'Ardèche Regional Nature Park guides you through a wild massif with Mediterranean influences.



### GR® de Pays Le Cévenol (5 days/4 nights)

A **98-kilometer** ridge-to-ridge trail between the Cévennes and Tanargue, through the Parc naturel des Monts d'Ardèche and the Parc national des Cévennes. The famous Le Cévenol train can take you back to La Bastide-Puylaurent by train.



### Guided tours

Mountain guides, the Espaces Naturels Sensibles and Natura 2000 project managers, the Etablissement Public Territorial du Bassin versant de l'Ardèche, the Païolive association and many others offer guided outings all summer long.

Easy, fun and friendly walks to learn more about the rarity and richness of the environment that surrounds us (rivers, Païolive woods, peat bogs...). Ask for the program at the tourist office.

#### NEW

##### From the Cévennes to the Tanargue (3 days/2 nights)

Between the Parc naturel régional des Monts d'Ardèche and the Parc national des Cévennes, in the heart of the unspoiled valleys of the Cévennes d'Ardèche, this **39 km** itinerary follows paths dotted with picturesque villages and geological curiosities.



To help you prepare your itinerary, a **Topocarte FFRandonnée** combining these 3 circuits is on sale at the tourist office and in our online store.



## By bike

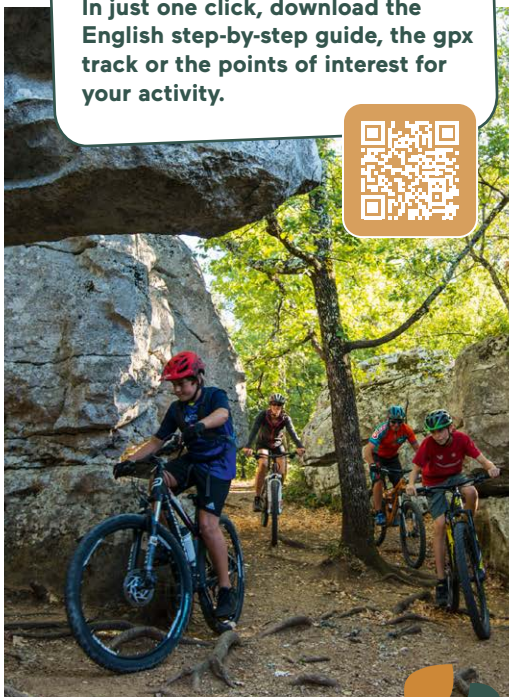
**Whether you're a beginner, a family enthusiast or an experienced cyclist looking for a challenge, the brand new Espace Vélo Territorial des Cévennes d'Ardèche, certified by the French Cycling Federation, is for you!**

From 2025, you'll be able to enjoy some **30 new signposted mountain bike trails, suitable for all levels.**

And that's not all: from 2026, Gravel and cycle touring will also be given pride of place, so you'll want to come back again and again, and enjoy cycling in all its forms..

**Mountain bike circuits (including enduro), bike rides, Gravel circuits, cyclo circuits and FFC®-certified itineraries are available free of charge on our portal [rando.cevennes-ardeche.com](http://rando.cevennes-ardeche.com).**

**In just one click, download the English step-by-step guide, the gpx track or the points of interest for your activity.**



Want to take the time to explore the richness of the region? There are 2 itineraries for you to choose from, either on the trails or on our smaller roads.

**The Grande Traversée de l'Ardèche  
by mountain bike, FFC® certified  
(315 km, 7 stages)**

This route takes you through the Monts d'Ardèche Regional Nature Park, the Monts Mézenc and Gerbier de Jonc, the Tanargue massif, the Païolive forest and the Ardèche Gorges.

Find your guide on this page.



NEW

## The Traversée Cévenole by electric bike (133 km, 3 stages)

**Not far from the Trappist convent of Notre-Dame des Neiges, head for Montselgues and its granite chaos.**

Through woods alternating between coniferous and chestnut trees, reach Les Vans. Between holm oaks, cades, vines and almond trees, here schist sets the tone. Then comes Malbosc, with its lauze roofs, steep slopes and man-made faïsses. Finally, the return journey takes the famous train Le Cévenol.



## The Via Ardèche®

**The Via Ardèche is the greenway of southern Ardèche, from south of Aubenas to the gateway to the Gard, at Gagnières.**

More than 60 kilometers of cycle paths have been laid out on former railroad tracks for safe cycling.

Learn more about railway history on an 8-panel interpretation trail near the Place de la gare in Saint-Paul-le-Jeune.





## On water

### The Chassezac

**Its winding course stretches for almost 85 km, between canyons and rapids, pebble beaches and cliffs...**

This mosaic of landforms and landscapes makes the river a paradise for nature-lovers: canyoning, canoeing, fishing, swimming, stand-up paddling and rafting. And why not try hiking on the many marked trails, mountain biking, via corda or rock climbing?



**Free canoeing is only recommended on the sections indicated. For the rest of the river, it is essential to be accompanied by a professional.**

#### Canoë-Kayak

Fun and easy! Ideal for breaks, swimming or picnics! Three routes of 3 km (1h), 7 km (2h) or 10 km (3h).

Accompanied canoeing for 5-year-olds and over, or free rental for 7-year-olds and over. Introduction to canoeing on the lake from age 3.

#### Stand-Up Paddle

Accompanied descent lasting 3 hours, alternating between standing on the water and kneeling in the rapids. Also initiation on the water.

#### Rando-raft

If the river level is relatively high, enjoy a 2-hour guided tour.

Suitable for children aged 5 and over.

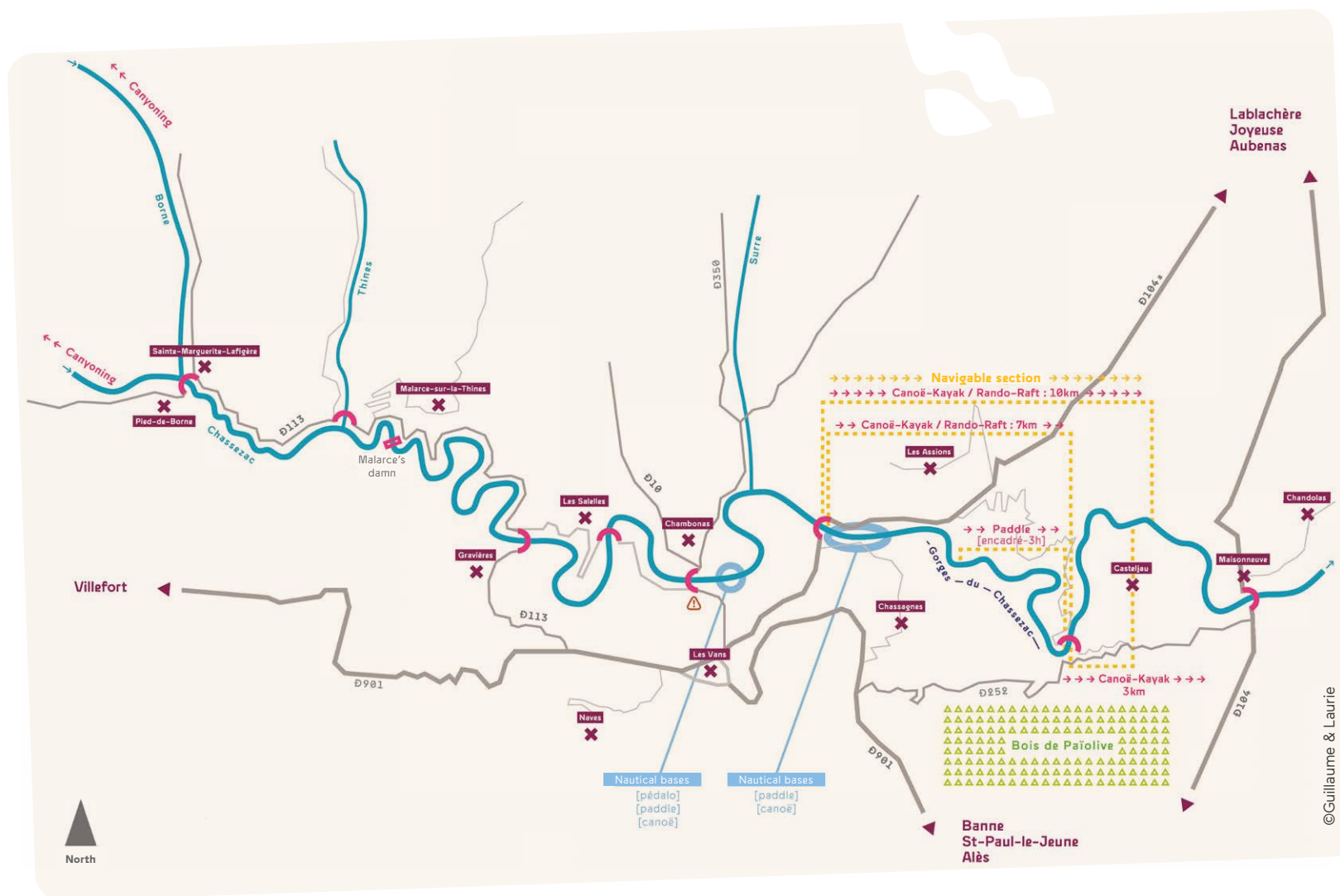
#### Canyoning

Gorges, canyons, slides, jumps, rapids: take the plunge!

Half-day or full-day. Family canyoning available from age 5, as well as Discovery and Adventure canyoning.

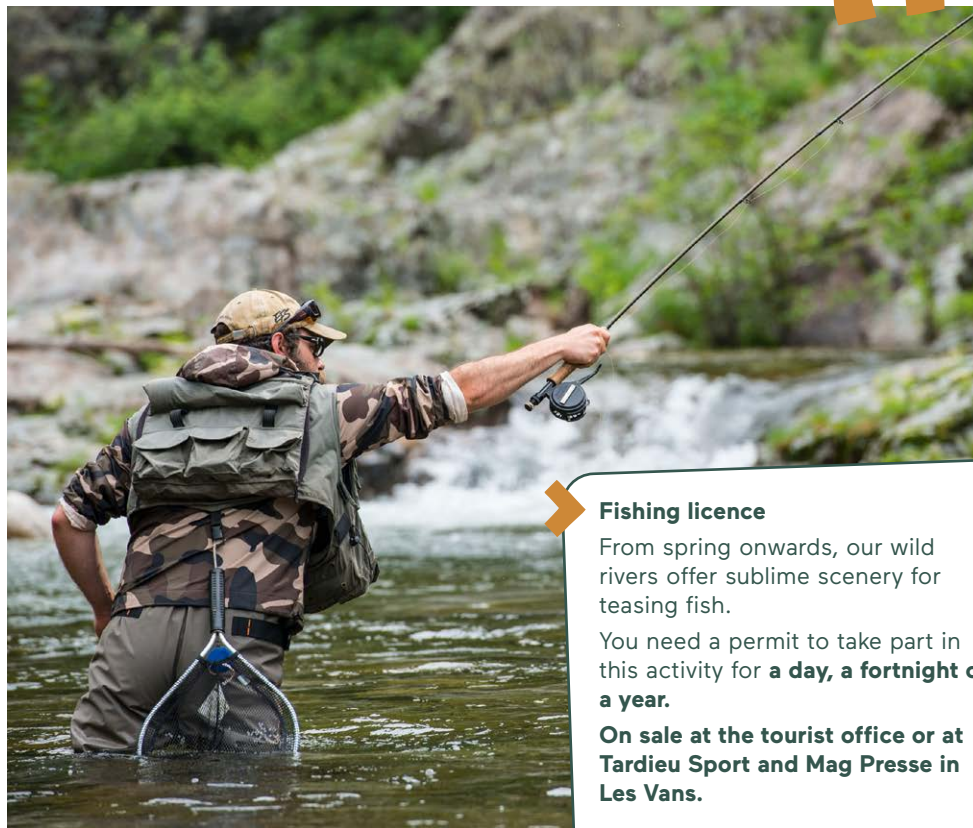
### Villefort lake

**30 min from Les Vans. A nautical base and equipped beach offer a wide range of activities.** Nearby, visit the village of La Garde Guérin, listed as one of France's most beautiful villages.



## Fishing

Discover fishing in the Ardèche with expert guides, on foot or by canoe! Whether you're a family, a beginner or a keen angler, enjoy an authentic adventure in the heart of nature, learning, exploring and enjoying a unique experience.



### Fishing licence

From spring onwards, our wild rivers offer sublime scenery for teasing fish.

You need a permit to take part in this activity for **a day, a fortnight or a year.**

**On sale at the tourist office or at Tardieu Sport and Mag Presse in Les Vans.**

## Swimming complex La Perle d'eau

### LABLACHÈRE

+33 4 75 36 38 80

[piscine-laperledeau.com](http://piscine-laperledeau.com)

Water recreation for whole family : pools, slides, water jets... Facilities for swimmers as well as for tourists those who are looking a moment of pure relaxation at a low price. Ecological pool : whitout chlorine, solar and wood heating...It also boasts a waterslide with four simultaneous starting points, a 25 meter long, 5 lane indoor lap pool, and indoor fun pool with hydro massage jets.

Bubble fountain and a slight current, a children's indoor wading pool with a small rainbow slide and a wellness space complete with sauna, hammam and jacuzzi.

Open all year.

## Preserve our rivers !



Plunging into the depths of steep-sided valleys, crystalline rivers are veritable havens of peace, where nature expresses itself freely. The Drobie, Beaume, Thines, Ganière and Chassezac rivers are home to precious ecosystems.

### 6 easy eco-actions to help preserve our rivers



#### Watch your step

As far as possible, avoid trampling seagrass beds, which are a rich habitat for wildlife.



#### Silence is golden, enjoy the birdsong

Avoid being too loud and intrusive to disturb animals such as birds and beavers..



#### Pebble dams: a false good idea

We don't always realize it, but even small dams, by slowing the flow of water, heat up the water and have an impact on the river's flora and fauna. They also prevent the free movement of fish, which need to swim upstream to feed and reproduce. Moving stones can also alter the riverbed, destroying habitats and breeding grounds.



#### Choose your sunscreen carefully

Almost 1/3 of sunscreens applied to the body end up in river water, disrupting the metabolism of aquatic flora and fauna. We therefore recommend that you apply sunscreen at least 30 minutes before swimming, and that you choose sunscreens with natural, biodegradable ingredients. Even better: you can delay your exposure time or wear a T-shirt to protect yourself from UV rays.



#### Opt for zero waste

Use reusable objects for picnics (eco-cups, water bottles, cutlery, etc.). Take your garbage with you, and if possible, recover any non-renewable waste you come across along the way.



#### Beware of fire !

Never build a fire, even if you're next to a river. Don't forget the pocket ashtray for smokers.

**Did you know that 1 cigarette butt pollutes 500 liters of water?**

### Ardèche Inf'eau Plage

A website to find out all about **river water quality**. Find out more about the Petit Rocher beach in Joyeuse.

Also on this site: information and tips for preserving our water and rivers.

[qualite.ardeche-eau.fr](http://qualite.ardeche-eau.fr)



## With a rope



### Climbing

Our qualified guides can help you learn or improve your climbing skills on the cliffs of the Casteljau peninsula or at the many other climbing sites in the southern Ardèche..

Accessible from age 5.

### Via Corda of Jardin d'endieu

Overlook the Chassezac River as you climb 45 m horizontally.

Passage through a cave, monkey bridges and other surprises await you before the final 45 m abseil! Thrills guaranteed.

Minimum height 1.40 m.

### Via Ferrata on Villefort lake or Pont du Diable in Thueyts

Ladders, monkey bridges, footbridges, zip lines...

Minimum height 1.40 m.

For free climbing, the climbing guidebook is on sale at the tourist office.  
Before any outing, consult the Chassezac Climbing Plan on [ct07ffme.fr](http://ct07ffme.fr). It defines the authorised climbing zones in relation to bird breeding sites.



## Underground

The soft limestone rock, carved out by water run-off, is home to a multitude of underground caves, some of which are still unexplored.

Follow our caving guides as they explore the subterranean world. Family, Discovery or Adventure packages, there's something for everyone.

Accessible from age 4.



## In the air



Try your hand at paragliding and take to the skies over the Cévennes d'Ardèche. Take off from Serre de Barre, Col de Meyrand or Chapelle Saint Sébastien.



## On ground

On horseback, on a motorbike, with a bow or in an outdoor escape game...

There's no shortage of activities to explore the region's natural riches.





# Tourist attractions

A wide variety of tourist sites invite you to explore a fascinating heritage, combining history, culture and nature. Activities, workshops and themed tours are all on offer, for a fun way to immerse yourself in the region!

► Check out the list of our partners !  
Scan this QR code



Roure castle

## The tourist office makes your life easier with its range of ticket offices

Castanea, Grotte Chauvet 2, Grotte de la Cocalière, Grand site de l'Aven d'Ornac or the Pass'Ardèche, tickets are on sale at our tourist office!



## Pass'Ardèche

The Pass'Ardèche entitles you to 1 entry to each of the 38 participating sites, throughout the validity of the Pass: for 3 days, 6 days or one year.



### 3 OPTIONS

**3 DAYS**  
48€  
**6 DAYS**  
62€  
**YEARLY**  
85€

► [visites-ardeche.com](https://visites-ardeche.com)





# Local gastronomy

*The Cévennes d'Ardèche cultivate the art of good eating and farming traditions. The variety of products and the way they are cultivated are reflected in the panoramic views that emerge.*

The south smells of the garrigue heathlands, you can breathe in the thyme and lavender; it's a land of vines and olive trees.

A prime "terroir" for producing Picodon PDO!

On the slopes, chestnut trees and ancient forests with soft green undergrowth stand proud! Kingdom of the bees that distil a delicious nectar with a powerful taste.

On the summits, the moorlands and summer pastures stretch as far as the eye can see, scented by broom and coloured by heather.

➤ Check out the list of our partners !  
Scan this QR code



## Meet the local producers

Actively fond of eating well and preserving traditions, there are many ambassadors of taste who compete with innovative, fun ideas to share their passion.

➤ Check out the list of our partners !  
Scan this QR code



### Guided tours (booking required)

**The educational agro-ecology gardens of Terre & Humanisme**

**LABLACHÈRE**  
Monday • March → october  
5€

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

**Pastoral evening**  
**MONTSELGUES**

Thursday • July-August • 17€  
(picnic included)

➤ [ardeche.gite-lafage.com](http://ardeche.gite-lafage.com)

**Meet the goats of the Divols farm**

**BEAULIEU**  
Wednesday → saturday • July-August  
Free • +33 6 08 67 12 36

**Le rucher Sully Villard**  
**ST-MÉLANY**

Thursday • July-August  
Free • +33 6 25 21 84 95

**The Berger des Abeilles honey house**

**MONTSELGUES**  
Tuesday • July-August • 4€

➤ [ardeche.gite-lafage.com](http://ardeche.gite-lafage.com)

**The Ceven'ale brewery**  
**ROSIÈRES**

Wednesday • July-August  
Free

➤ [cevenale.fr](http://cevenale.fr)

**Animations in Castanea**

**JOYEUSE**

Meet a sweet chestnut grower, guided tour, sensory tour for the whole family or even a tasting.

April → October  
4€ à 7,50€

➤ [castanea-ardeche.com](http://castanea-ardeche.com)

### Interpretation trails

Plunge into the world of iconic products of Cévennes d'Ardèche on a themed walk.

**Vineyard trail**  
**ROSIÈRES**

**Discover the chestnut grove**  
**STE-MARGUERITE-LAFIGÈRE**

**Winegrower trail**  
**LABLACHÈRE**

**Olive trail**  
**LES VANS**

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

**A gourmet stroll**  
**LABOULE**

Wander through the chestnut groves, stop to take in the

breathtaking scenery and try out the panoramic merry-go-round at the top of the hill. Finish off with a tasting of chestnut-based products in the Marron-châtaigne processing workshop.

Self-guided tours available from April to November, on Wednesday, only on booking.  
3€ • +33 6 24 59 09 15



# Markets

Traditional, authentic and full of life... so many adjectives wich characterize THE ultimate moment of conviviality ! All year round, markets are unmissables of the local life. Listen, smell, watch... here you are !

## Morning markets, all year round

**Monday**  
**ROSIÈRES**

**Wednesday**  
**JOYEUSE**

**Friday**  
**ST-PAUL-LE-JEUNE**

**Saturday**  
**LES VANS**

**Sunday**  
**LABLACHÈRE**

**Monday**

**SAINT-PAUL-LE-JEUNE** ☀️  
April → October • 7h-12h30

**BANNE** 🌙  
June → September  
17h à 22h

**CASTELJAU** 🌙  
July-August • 18h-22h

**Tuesday**

**LES VANS** 🌙  
End of June → August  
18h-23h

**LABLACHÈRE** 🌙  
(Domaine du Vialat)  
April → October  
17h30-19h30

**Wednesday**

**CHANDOLAS** 🌙  
July-August • 18h

**Thursday**

**BERRIAS** ☀️  
July-August • 8h-12h30

**CHAMBONAS** 🌙  
Mid-april → October  
17h30

**LOUBARESE** 🌙  
July-August • 17h-19h

**SABLIÈRES** 🌙  
July-August • 17h-19h  
**ROSIÈRES** 🌙  
July-August • 18h-23h

**Friday**

**RIBES** 🌙  
March → October • 17h-19h

**LABLACHÈRE, Champs Libres** 🌙  
June → September  
18h30-22h30

**Sunday**

**MALBOSC** ☀️  
June → August • 9h-13h

**PAYZAC** ☀️  
July-August • 9h-13h

**SAINT-MÉLANY** ☀️  
March → Septembre  
10h-12h

**VALGORGE** ☀️  
April → November  
9h-13h

**BEAUMONT** 🌙  
July-August • 17h30-20h

**JOYEUSE, place de la gare**  
July-August • 18h-23h

**JOYEUSE, centre historique**  
July-August • Soir

➤ Check out the calendar !



☀️ Daily markets  
🌙 Night markets

# Identifying quality !

Our region is home to a large number of committed professionals working to promote local, sustainable agriculture, with a focus on quality, sustainable production and short distribution channels. A range of brands and labels have been created to promote and identify these initiatives. They are as much landmarks for consumers as they are recognition for producers, restaurateurs and artisans of taste.



**Goûtez l'Ardèche®** identifies products from the Ardèche that comply with quality specifications. In the restaurants, the Goûtez l'Ardèche® discovery menu is made with 80% local produce. Take it away with you and enjoy the Goûtez l'Ardèche® picnic.



**Les étapes savoureuses d'Ardèche®** offers places to visit that guarantee Ardèche produce and a quality welcome.



**Esprit Parc** (national des Cévennes) and **Valeurs du Parc** (naturel régional des Monts d'Ardèche) guarantee a quality welcome, as well as products and services that are authentically produced in the region, and that encourage the preservation of biodiversity.



**AB : Agriculture Biologique**



**HVE: High Environmental Value**



**PDO - Protected Designation of Origin** is a label that identifies a product whose production stages of production are carried out in the same geographical area and according to recognized know-how.



**Maître restaurateur** for professional restaurateurs, ambassadors of the «home-made» concept.



**Vignobles & Découvertes**, a collective brand for partners of the Vignobles Sud Ardèche destination.

These professionals provide a special welcome on the theme of wine.



**Bistrot de Pays** is a label created in 1993 to support independent bistro owners. A place for living and sharing, it is sometimes the only business in the village, serving as a bar, restaurant and grocery store.





## Iconic products

### PDO Châtaigne d'Ardèche

**By consuming Châtaigne d'Ardèche PDO, you are supporting a global quality approach (product, method, environment, sustainable development, etc.).**

The guarantees provided include the use of traditional Ardèche varieties with recognised taste qualities, full traceability and a ban on any chemical fertilisation or soil enrichment. Châtaigne d'Ardèche has typical aromas with discreet notes of brioche, bread pudding, pumpkin, sweet potato and honey. It has a distinctly sweet taste, sometimes accompanied by a slight bitterness.

In dried chestnuts and flour, there are also smells of dried fruit such as almonds and hazelnuts, and of cake.

Whether fresh, dried or in the form of flour, for these three products, all the manufacturing stages (production, processing, etc.) take place within the PDO geographical area, using traditional methods listed in a set of specifications.

[castanea-ardeche.com](https://castanea-ardeche.com)



### Chatus, symbol of a resilient "terroir" !

**A typical Ardèche grape variety,** Chatus almost disappeared in the 19th century. Revived by a handful of winegrowers with a passion for the area, this unique red wine has today regained all its former glory.



[neovinum.fr](https://neovinum.fr)

### PDO Picodon

**In Provençal, «Picaoudou» means «little spicy cheese». It is made from whole, raw goat's milk.**

The Picodon PDO is reserved for producers in Drôme and Ardèche, as well as the Valréas and Barjac cantons, who comply with a strict set of specifications.



[terrabra.com](https://terrabra.com)

## A taste of conviviality

**Castagnades, farmers' markets, farm tastings, early harvest wine festivals... Throughout the year, Cévennes d'Ardèche comes alive with gastronomic events where local produce and friendship are shared.**

Farm shops, shared gardens, farm visits and introductions attract a growing number of customers and users.

Promoting ecological, local, solidarity-based values, these collective initiatives provide fertile ground for quality agriculture, which has become a major issue for the future.



**Short-distance consumption encourages job creation, preserves ancestral know-how and keeps typical landscapes open. And last but not least, eating local is simply good food!**

## Gourmet shops

**Check out the list of our partners !  
Scan this QR code**





# Where to eat ?

Savour local produce, share a gourmet meal or simply enjoy a drink on the terrace. From convivial tables to refined addresses, every break can be savoured with authenticity.

► Check out the list of our partners !  
Scan this QR code



To avoid disappointment, remember to reserve your table in advance. Some restaurants are often fully booked, even out of season.



## From hiking to plate 4 bistrots, 4 villages, 4 hikes !

Hike around the villages before putting your feet under the table and enjoying a good meal in one of the Bistrots de Pays®.

In the Cévennes d'Ardèche, 4 Bistrots de Pays® live up the heart of the villages of Payzac, Ribes, Planzolles and Malbosc. A place to live and enjoy life, they are a bar, restaurant, grocery shop and social network all rolled into one.



### Hikes from each Bistrot de Pays® in Cévennes d'Ardèche

#### Hike to Marceau Mill PLANZOLLES

Medium difficulty  
6.6 km • 219 m elevation  
gain • 3 hours of walking

#### Flaûts Path Hike RIBES

Medium difficulty  
6.6 km • 296 m elevation  
gain • 2.5 hours of walking

#### Triassic Sandstone Hike PAYZAC

Easy level  
5.9 km • 156 m elevation  
gain • 2 hours of walking

#### Stone paths & chestnut groves

#### MALBOSC

Medium difficulty  
5.9 km • 223 m elevation  
gain • 3 hours of walking

You can download the  
hiking routes for free  
from [rando.cevennes-ardeche.com](http://rando.cevennes-ardeche.com) and on  
sale (in French) in  
Bistrots de Pays.





# Arts & crafts

Ceramics, fabric, paper, glass, leather, wood, stone... in the Cévennes d'Ardèche, artists and craftspeople have managed to preserve and, above all, update traditions. When talent meets inspiration, the result is modern, contemporary works. Design is combined with fashion, and materials are matched like a dish with a wine.

► Check out the list of our partners !  
Scan this QR code



## Make a note in your diary

**Bann'art : international festival of unique art and contemporary art**

**BANNE**

Festival de Printemps

June

Summer Festival de l'été

July

**Potter's market**

**LES VANS**

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in July

**Arts & crafts night markets in villages in July and August.**

**BANNE (PLACE DU FORT)**

Monday

**LES VANS**

Tuesday from mid-June

**JOYEUSE (VIEILLE VILLE)**

Sunday in July and August



**Polinno**

**JOYEUSE**

+33 (0)7 49 78 81 82

[polinno.art](http://polinno.art)

**An innovation cluster devoted to professional arts and crafts in Chandolas, southern Ardèche, with four main features:**

- A business incubator to support young arts and crafts professionals starting up their businesses.
- FabLab, a digital manufacturing workshop.
- A permanent collective arts and crafts shop run by local craftspeople and artists.
- A mobile digital museum, la "Microfolie".

# Shops & services

Beauty and well-being, fashion and decoration, bookshops, real estate and concierge services, various shops and services...

► Check out the list of our partners !  
Scan this QR code



# Useful informations

## Phone numbers

### Emergencies

112

### Gendarmerie

**LES VANS**

+33(0)4 75 37 21 05

**JOYEUSE**

+33(0)4 75 39 40 64

### Medical centers

#### Medical center

**LES VANS**

+33(0)4 75 38 48 48

#### Health center Pays Beaume Drobie

**JOYEUSE**

+33(0)4 75 39 95 49

### Pharmacies

#### Pharmacie de La Beaume

**JOYEUSE**

+33(0)4 75 39 40 24

#### Pharmacie Gilles

**JOYEUSE**

+33(0)4 75 39 40 26

#### Pharmacie Blanc

**LES VANS**

+33(0)4 75 37 21 40

#### Pharmacie de la Clairette

**LES VANS**

+33(0)4 75 37 21 25

#### Pharmacie Principale ROSIÈRES

+33(0)4 75 39 40 27

#### Pharmacie de la Gare Gourdon-Chapon

**ST-PAUL-LE-JEUNE**

+ 33(0)4 75 39 80 12

### Veterinarians

#### Veterinay clinic

**LES VANS**

+33(0)4 75 37 38 02

#### Veterinay clinic A'NIMO ROSIÈRES

+33(0)4 75 89 17 40

#### Veterinay clinic L'Ancienne Gare

**ST-PAUL-LE-JEUNE**

+33(0)4 75 39 51 54

### Child care

#### Maison de l'enfance

**LABLACHÈRE**

+33 (0)4 75 39 01 82

## Public transports

### By train

The nearest stations with bus connections to our region are **Montélimar (60 km)**, **Valence (90 km)**, **Alès (50 km)**.

► [voyages-sncf.com](https://voyages-sncf.com)

### By bus

+33 (0)4 75 35 69 90

► [laregionvoustransporte.fr](https://laregionvoustransporte.fr)

#### Allo TER

09 69 32 21 41  
(toll-free)

#### Lines X74 and X73

From Valence, Montélimar, Privas, Aubenas.

#### Line E13

From Alès and Aubenas  
Ticket 3€

#### Accessibility for people with reduced mobility and bicycle transport:

Booking required 48 hours  
in advance by calling  
+33 (0)4 75 35 69 90



# The major events in Cévennes d'Ardèche

All year round, Cévennes d'Ardèche comes alive with events that celebrate sports, the countryside, conviviality, gastronomy and the good life together... These events are a great success with a growing public keen to enjoy, admire, move and share!

## Sports events

### Hiking month in Cévennes d'Ardèche

A varied programme of walks for all ages, in a friendly, family atmosphere.

May

### Chassezac Raid nature

An unmissable event for all nature and thrill-seekers bringing together sports and outdoor enthusiasts.

May

## Festivals

### Joyeuse escale

#### JOYEUSE

Webradio Allo La Planète is organising its festival in the Ardèche region, dedicated to travel, adventure and expatriation. Film screenings, meetings with authors, round tables, shows, workshops, exhibitions, concerts...

May

### Trails of Cévennes d'Ardèche

Take up the Cévennes d'Ardèche trails challenge. Ten races for several events!

### Course cycliste l'Ardéchoise

#### THROUGHOUT THE ARDÈCHE !

One of the biggest cycling events in Europe.

June

### Ardèche Meeting

A Slackline festival, but not only that... Nature sports, concerts, shows, cinema, circus and well-being.

May

Visit your local tourist office to book your tickets!

### Labeaume en Musiques

#### LABEAUME

A range of shows combining music, theatre and heritage in the most beautiful settings in the southern Ardèche. Bal, contemporary percussion, spellbinding voices, musical storytelling, piccolo opera, large-scale participatory musical fresco, workshops...

June

### Aluna Festival

#### RUOMS

National and international artists come to perform for a weekend.

June

## Gourmets rendez-vous

### Quilles, Festival des vins vivants CHAMBONAS

A natural wine fair bringing together winemakers who work with respect for the living world, food trucks, round tables, music and a feast.

June

### Castagnades d'automne

Villages celebrate chestnuts. Local producers' markets, gourmet walks in the chestnut grove, meetings with chestnut growers, games for children, castagnade menus and street entertainment...

October → november

### Vignobles en scène !

#### THROUGHOUT THE SOUTHERN ARDÈCHE



The professionals involved in the Vignobles & Découvertes label are offering you the chance to discover their vineyards through fun, unique and original activities!

October

### L'Ardèche De Ferme en Ferme® (FD CIVAM Ardèche)

Farmers open their farms to you. Discover their work and their products, committed to sustainable agriculture!

April

## Agenda

From guided tours of villages to theatrical visits, from small concerts in the local square to festivals... natural, improbable and unexpected places are often the backdrop for rhythmic, lively and surprising shows.

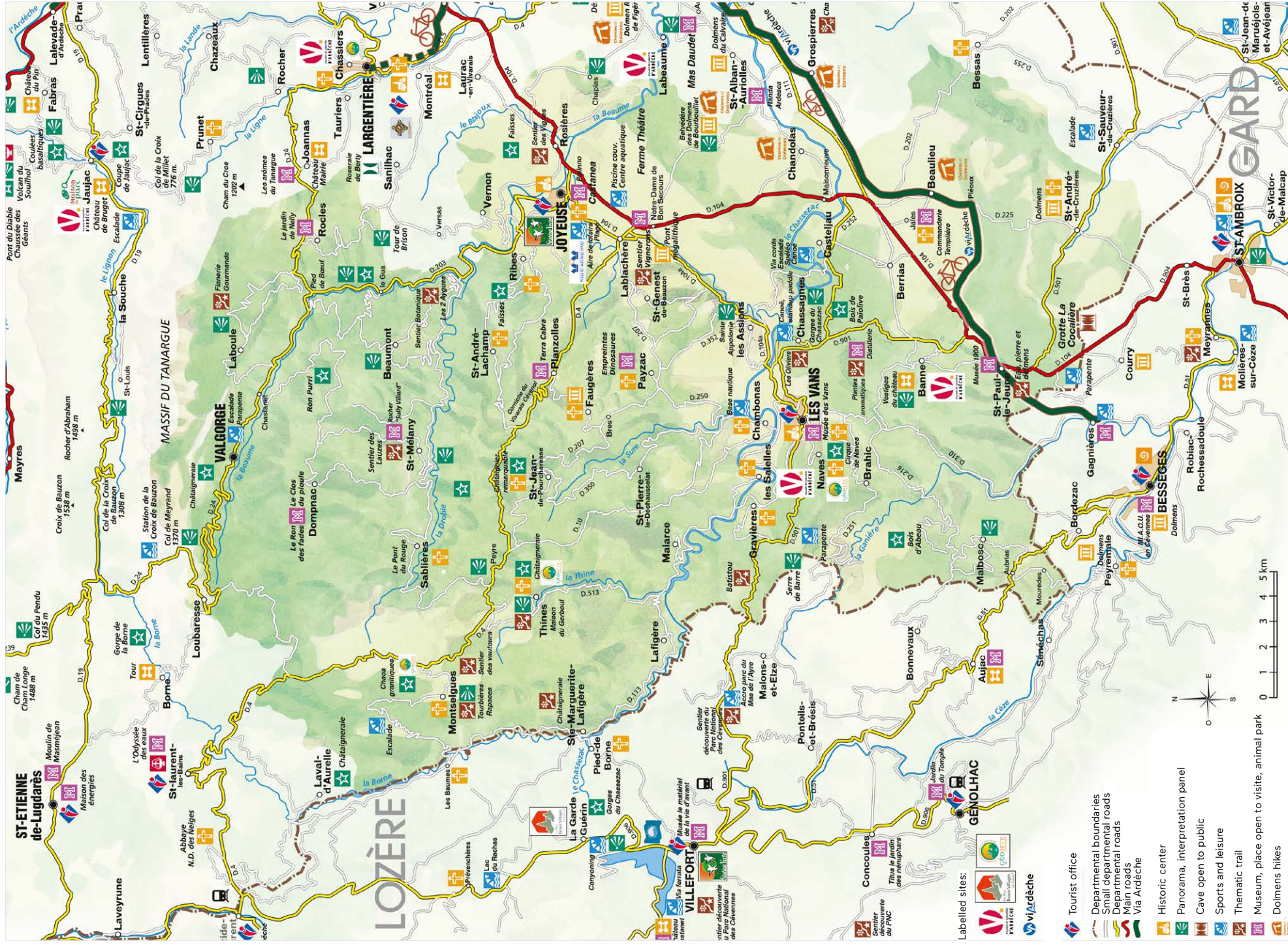
See the full agenda on the website [cevennes-ardeche.com](http://cevennes-ardeche.com), or pick up a paper version at our reception offices in Joyeuse and Les Vans. Every week, receive the

calendar of events directly in your mailbox on request from the tourist office. office. dans votre boîte mail sur simple demande à l'office de tourisme.





# Cévennes d'Ardèche : the map







OFFICE DE TOURISME

17 place Léopold Ollier - 07140 Les Vans  
63 avenue François Boissel - 07260 Joyeuse

**+33 (0)4 75 37 24 48**

**contact@cevennes-ardeche.com**



**#CevennesdArdeche**



**www.cevennes-ardeche.com**

**ÉMERVEILLÉS  
PAR L'ARDÈCHE**



**Ardèche**  
LE DÉPARTEMENT



**Destination  
France**

