

Trekking in

The gorges de l'Ardèche 4 to 7 days

Located south of department, benefiting from an exceptional microclimate (more than 300 days of sunshine per year); Gorges de l'Ardèche are magical and unique for their wild beauty and grandeur. The river has carved into the limestone, over time, a deep canyon that is discovered through natural lookouts on the GR4 hiking trail.

In prehistoric times, its many caverns and caves were a haven for the Cro-Magnon, as evidenced by the discovery in 1994 of the Chauvet cave rupestre art (the oldest know to date – 30,000 years)

In the last century, production of charcoal from oak was very active, herds of goats and many sheeps, Gorges were overexploited, ecosystem it was threatened.

Today, the forest has reclaimed its, fauna and flora of the Mediterranean are again rich and varied. The orchids bloom in spring or eagles flying over the cliffs are the jewels of a magnificent fragile heritage and I hope you could come to see this site listed as a nature reserve since 1980.

In this mythical place kayaking or rock climbing, hiking with a donkey on the old mule tracks or coalway is an original, both new and traditional to discover the Gorges of the river to the crest.

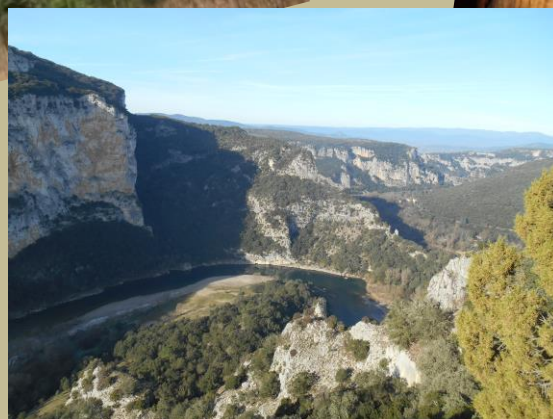
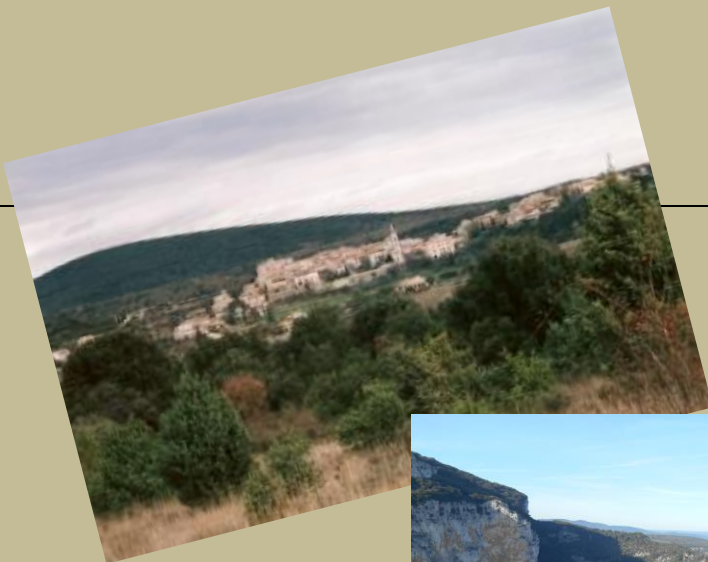
Wild camping is forbidden, but there are camping in the farm around the Gorges

The trekking lodges, hotels and cottages welcome you

You can visit the caves and museums on the theme of prehistoric

Swimming is possible in the river or pool each day

Choose your tour and book your accommodation well in good order



Dolmen Tour

This beautiful trail you will discover Dolmen rally the gorges of Ardeche, see combine the two for a great trip. Many dolmens mark this circuit. You can go for at least 4 days, but in 5 or 7 days this hike will become even more interesting.



Modulate your circuit but will book your accommodation well in good order. The roads are often forest tracks, so easy with children, the gradients are weak this circuit. You'll have beautiful views and sights to discover ...

Example 7 Day

Day 1: Vallon Pont d'Arc - Vagnas or Labastide de Virac / La Goule-12km

Day 2: Vagnas or Labastide de Virac - Orgnac – 7 or 12 km

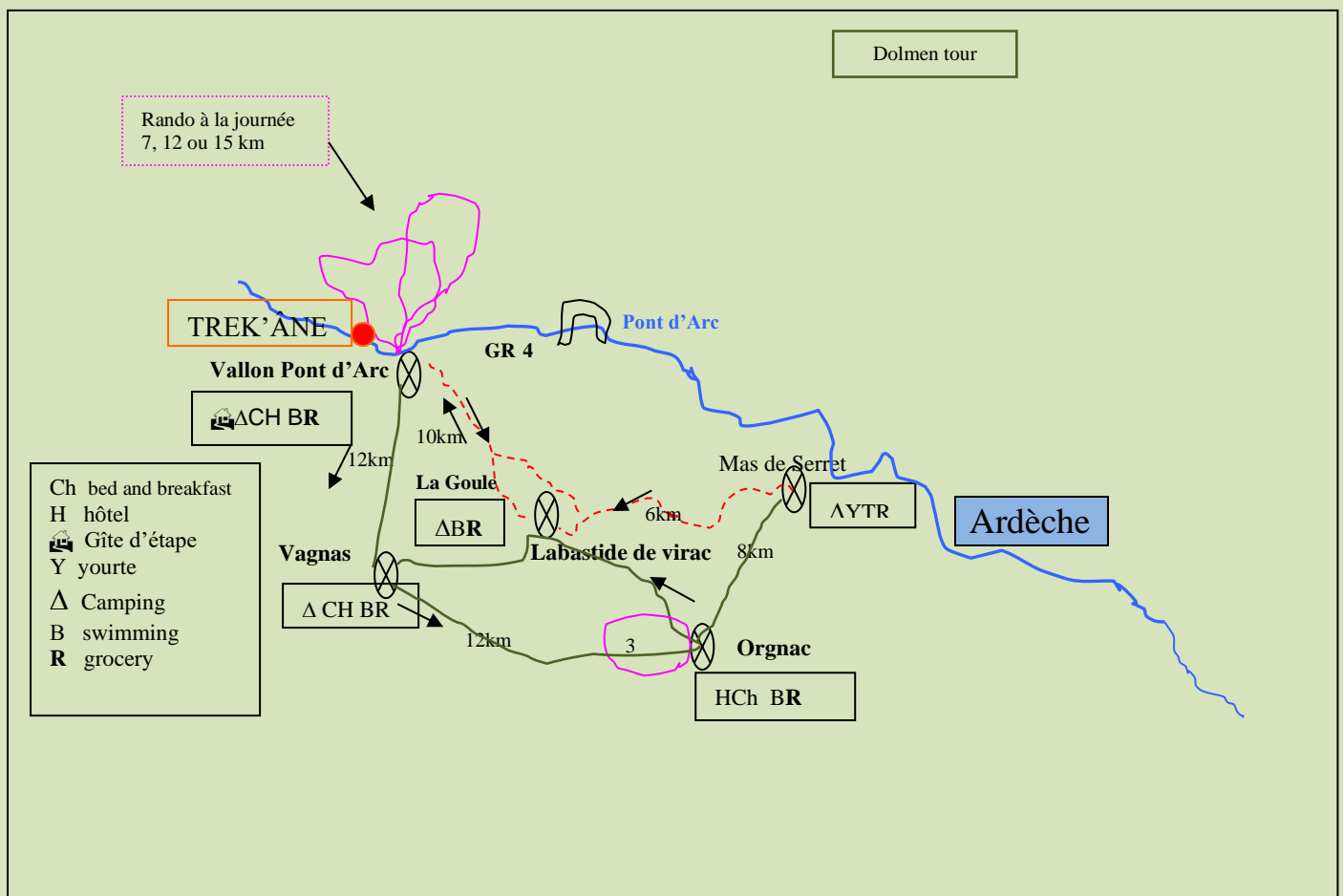
Day 3: Orgnac - Orgnac – 5 or 10km (visit the cave as possible)

Day 4: Orgnac – Mas de serret - 8km

Day 5: Walk around Mas de serret (river) - 5,10 or 15 km choices

Day 6: Mas de serret - La Bastide de Virac/ La Goule - 8km

Day 7: La Bastide de Virac/ la Goule - Vallon Pont d'Arc - 12 km à 16km



For more info on the dolmen tour

The Ardèche is one of the French departments with the highest concentration of dolmens, collective burials erected from the late Neolithic to early Bronze Age. More than 800 dolmens have been recorded throughout the department. You will not see them all.

To go around the dolmens, you will need at least 4 days of walking. But this hike will be even more interesting if you stay there for 5, 6 or 7 days. You can then go down to the river, include cultural visits (regional museum of prehistory, the Orgnac cave, the castle of Labastide de Virac ...) and take an afternoon or two to relax in the sun and swim.

Day 1: Vallon Pont d'Arc to Vagnas - 12 km - 4 hours of walking through country trails

A nice day's hike, the first stage takes you to the forest "des Brugières". The tracks are in good condition and shaded under the pines, then the path continues under the holm oaks in the undergrowth, in the shade and takes you to Vagnas where you can stop at the B&B "Mas de la rude" (9km) in a guest room in the middle of the forest Or on bivouac space here.

Day 2: Vagnas to Orgnac. 10km.

Always by beautiful forest tracks you will discover the dolmens "Bois des Eillantes". A small corner of magical forest where one has the impression that nothing has changed since the Neolithic. Arrival on the site of the Orgnac cave by the forest, B&B « les chênes de l'Aven » 1.5 km or hotel « les Stalagmites » in the village 2 km.

Day 3: Loop around Orgnac - 5 km Maubois Tour

Short walk to the Orgnac cave and the regional museum of prehistory, it would be a shame not to visit these places that will allow you to understand our landscape and its ancient heritage. The Maubois trail, 5km with a cave, a lapias, a dolmen, a charcoal factory ... all the essential heritage of the Ardèche concentrated here ... Same accommodation.

Day 3 or 4: Orgnac to Mas de Serret – 7 km – 2h30 walk on GR4.

You can still discover the dolmen of "La Font du Loup", the natural entrance of a well, the large lauze (huge slab of limestone where we recovered water) ... The fauna, flora ... Accommodation in camping "Milles étoiles" under the green oaks (yurt, tent lodge), a super friendly address and the river 2 steps to spend the afternoon feet in the water, deep in the gorge, sublime place.

(Possible direct return from Mas de Serret "Milles étoiles" 13.5 km or 15 km for a 4-day or 5-day circuit with the loop around Orgnac)

Day 5: Mas de Serret. Boucle de 3, 6, 10 km choice.

"Saleyron tour" for an elevated view of the canyon gorges. Or relax on site and access to the river, sublime point of view.

Day 6: Mas de Serret to Labastide de Virac . 7 km or more

You can visit the castle of Labastide de Virac and discover a beautiful view from the walkway and also see the breeding of silkworms and the ghost of the castle.

B&B « le vieux porche » or Camping « la Goule » with tent already installed (bubble tent under the stars)

Day 7: La Bastide de Virac to Vallon Pont d'Arc. 10 km on GR4.

A nice path will take you back to Vallon by the old Roman bridge of Rieussec or the GR4.

A roadbook in English will be given to you and a hiking map.

All good advice on your course and the management of donkeys will be given the day before . This course is flexible. Food shopping or restaurant in the evening are possible every day in the small villages crossed.

4-day options/ Underground tour

Day 1: Vallon Pont d'Arc to La goule. 9 km - 3h walk on the GR4

A lovely day's hiking, the first stage is easy and takes you through the woods of Labastide de Virac. The trails are in good condition, shaded by holm oaks, and you can stop off at Isabelle's campsite at La Goule. With its original tent, breakfast and picnic (food truck), Isabelle's small grocery store stocks all the best local produce, as well as a swimming pool.

Day 2: La Goule to Orgnac. 8 km.

The GR4 continues on to the magnificent village of Labastide, with a beautiful view of the castle (which can be visited). A bucolic walk with very little change in level. Halfway along, you can take a break at l'aven de la forestière, a pretty glittering cave, with games for the kids and a snack, ice cream and cold drink area. Then you're just 2 steps away from the very large Orgnac cave and its prehistory museum. So you'll never get bored in the woods... B&B les chênes de l'aven 1.5km away or hotel les Stalagmites in the village 2km away.

(You can also go direct to Mas de Serret and make a return trip to Orgnac over 1 day (14km))

Day 3: Orgnac to Mas de Serret. 7km + access to the river

The Gr4 crosses over the "grande lauze" (huge limestone stone slab where water used to be collected)...a beautiful viewpoint on the horizon. Accommodation at the Milles étoiles campsite under the holm oaks (yurt, lodge tent), a super-friendly address and the river just around the corner to spend the afternoon with your feet in the water, at the bottom of the gorges, a sublime place.

Day 4: Mas de Serret to Vallon Pont D'Arc. 13.5km 4h30 walk

A pretty path takes you back to Vallon via the old Roman bridge over the Rieussec or the GR4. This is an easy walk, either flat or downhill.

3-day options/ River walk

Day 1: Vallon Pont d'Arc to La goule. 9 km - 3h walk on the GR4

A lovely day's hiking, the first stage is easy and takes you through the woods of Labastide de Virac. The trails are in good condition, shaded by holm oaks, and you can stop off at Isabelle's campsite at La Goule. You'll find an unusual tent, breakfast and picnics, as well as supplies in her little grocery store, where you'll find all the good local produce, and a swimming pool.

Day 2: La goule to Mas de Serret - 7km + access to the river.

From the village, 2 options: either go straight to Mas de Serret to arrive early and have the whole afternoon at the river, or do the Saleyron tour (a sublime walk with a view of the Pont d'Arc, and still go for a swim in the river afterwards. Access to the river is via a sloping path (without the donkeys, which stay in the paddock), with a 200 m descent, but it's so beautiful that you forget the effort, and you've got to earn it if you want a really beautiful spot. Allow 30 minutes for the descent and 45 minutes for the ascent.)

Day 3: Mas de Serret to Vallon Pont D'Arc. 13.5km 4h30 walk.

A pretty path takes you back to Vallon via the old Roman bridge over the Rieussec or the GR4. This stage is easy, either flat or downhill.

LIST OF ACCOMMODATION ON THE CIRCUIT
Indicative prices of accommodation can not enter trekane

- At each location of private enclosures are available for our donkeys and their food.
 IGN Map Top 25 : n° 2939 “ Gorges de l’Ardèche”

St martin d’ardèche	Camping du Castelas	04.75.04.66.55 http://www.ardeche-guide.com/hotelleries-de-plein-air/campings/camping-le-castelas-61477	<i>Espace randonneur</i> 12 à 14€/campsite	A 200 m	<i>Rivière à</i> 100 m
Orgnac www.orgnac.com	Hôtel-restaurant** <i>Les stalagmites</i> (in the village)	+33(0)4.75.38.60.67 www.lesstalagmites.com spoken gb	25 rooms 60 €/2 pers	yes	no
Orgnac	Bed and breakfast *** <i>Les chênes de l’Aven</i>	06.10.85.37.23 www.leschenesdelaven.com spoken GB a little	2 chambres /2 pers. 75€/2pers.	yes	yes
Mas de Serret	Camping and yourte	+33(0)4.75.38..42.77 www.campingmilletoiles.com spoken gb	Price on website 15€/pers/night	yes	No but river near
La Goule 4 and/or day 5	Farm Camping <i>Tente lodge</i>	+33(0)4.75.38.61.24 www.campinglagoule.com spoken gb	25 campsites price on website	No but Grocery Breakfast picnic	yes Swimming trunks Mandatory
Vagnas www.vagnas.com	Bed and breakfast <i>le mas de la Rude</i> (in the forest)	+33 (0)6 09 97 51 97 julien.leger@hotmail.fr spoken GB	Family rooms from 60€/2pers	yes Repas 16€ Petit dej 6€ Picnic 10€	No (small river in spring)

Pretty loops are possible around Labastide de virac, Orgnac, Mas de Serret or if you want to stay 2 nights for stewardship lighter especially for campers.

**Before or after your hike, you can book a night at the farm (max. 8 places).
 (night and breakfast included from 75€ for 2 people and 25€/additional person).**

Or at hotel « le clos des bruyères*** » tél.+334.75.37.18.85 – <http://www.closdesbruyeres.fr>
 Camping near

Find tons of addresses on the website of the tourist village
<http://www.vallon-pont-darc.com>

List of equipment for an adventure in Ardeche with Selou, Nestor, Lulu ...

Physical Preparation

Provide rides for 8 to 15 km twice a week a month before the start, taking a backpack and using the shoes you wear during your hike.

During the march to drink at least two liters of water per day.

The choice of the three following elements is essential for your comfort and safety

- Walking shoes, rising, good quality and you have already used.

1 Comfortable backpack that you'll back on the day (about 2 kg of water + mobile + camera

1 cap. 1 tube sunscreen).

1 bag or backpack for your clothes. Put the clothes in a garbage bag. In case of rain everything will be dry.- (clothing on you or in the bag)

3 tee-shirts in cotton sweat

1 sweet in polar

3 pants

1 cotton shirt (for evening)

1 lightweight pajamas 1 pantalon léger de randonnée avec poches sur côté

2 hiking shorts with pockets also

3 pairs of socks double type two in one, anti bulb

1 parka

1 hiking poncho in case of rain

1 pair of sandals for the evening light

1 sleeping bag

1 bag of 2 liters water to put in the bag with hose (very convenient to drink regularly in small quantities)

- Grooming Kit:

1 small soap

1 small toothbrush

1 small tube of toothpaste

1 towel

- Kit drugs:

1 prescription from your doctor if necessary for your regular medications

1 small scissors

Expect some units of drugs for vomiting, diarrhea, insect bites, headache

- Wash Kit:

1 small tube of liquid detergent for hand washing, but washmachine on many place.

1 nylon cord

8 clothespins

1 flashlight

- Documents

1 credit card

1 Identity card or passport

Cashout at Vallon Pont d'Arc or St Martin d'Ardèche only but not other place.

1 pocket trail map (practical and waterproof)

Do not overload or donkey yourself and your whole crew walk with pleasure.

Donkeys help carry your bags of clothes unless they are too heavy, be reasonable. Thank you.

PS. the list is an advice.

Booking form

Name : _____

firstname : _____

Adress : _____

E-Mail _____

Mobile _____

Number of participant : _____

Adults : _____

children : _____ Age : _____

Number donkey rent : _____

Choices tour : _____

Date of hiking : to _____ at _____

Send me a 30% deposit please

Total sent: _____

The balance will be paid on the day of departure.

The deposit paid will not be refundable in case of
cancellation by the customer, but can be used
when the customer

a next donkey hire within 2 years.

A deposit of 100€ will be asked for and
returned at the end of the hike.

A possible repatriation will be charged to the
customer.

Departures are at 8.30 am at the farm.

I have read the general conditions.

Write at _____ the _____

Signature :



To return to this adress

Trek'âne

Thévenin Martine

324, route des Estrades

07150 Vallon Pont d'Arc

Mobile : 0033 687 211 534

**Thank you indicate your accommodation,
This allows us to provide hay and barley need
to donkeys in the relay.**

Day 1:

Day 2:

Day 3:

Day 4:

Day 5:

Day 6:

Day 7:

Meeting the day before the circuit:

2 pm - 3 pm - 4 pm - 5 pm

(make your choice)

To give you the map + topo + info on
the donkey

Hiring prices for 2024

Hiring for donkey, pack-saddle and itinerary....

1 day / 65 € - 2 days / 120 € - 3 days / 185 €

4 days / 245 € - 5 days / 300 € - 6 days / 355 € - 1 week 385 €

Number bank transfert

Crédit agricole de Vallon pont d'arc - code banque : 13906

IBAN : FR76 1390 6000 0329 7829 8800 021 SWIFT : AGRIFRPP839

Preparation of the departures in hiking...

Before each departure you will be given all the good advice you need to start off on the right foot.
A technical booklet to prepare and feed the donkey will be given to you.

We will of course study the IGN map and the road book together. GPX file on request.

The Iphigénie GPS app is free 7 days and allows you to locate yourself, very practical.

The hikes are unaccompanied and you must know how to navigate with a map, the markings are present but may be damaged, wood cutting or malicious.

Then equipment and loading of your companion, safety instructions.

We will collect the donkeys from the paddock to prepare them for the tethering bar.

Currycombing session (carefully brush the back of the donkey to remove twigs which could injure it under the load) then cleaning of the hooves (good foot) and installation of the pack-saddle.

For a small walk at the day count 1/4 of hour of preparation.

For a course of several days count

1h to 1h30 of preparation.

Departures are made between 8.30 and 9 am.

(We adapt according to the season of course).

Make sure you have all your luggage ready, otherwise last minute sorting can take a long time and your future companion will be impatient. You might as well start out in good conditions for everyone.

Before or after your hike, you can book a night at the farm (7 places max.).

Please come and see us the day before for departures of several days, we will then study the route and this will save time for everyone and you will be able to fully enjoy your first day of trekking. You can also bring and pack your bags the day before. You should also bring backpacks, not everything will fit in our bags and the backpacks are very easy to attach to the pack and allow for a narrower harness (useful when the paths are narrow, as is the case on the 1st stage of the Tour des Gorges). Weigh your luggage in advance (picnic and water included) about 25kg to 30kg per donkey. Before loading your donkey has already 10kg of material on its back.

In each relay there will be a paddock for the donkeys as well as the necessary food (barley and hay), it is up to you to feed and water them. Donkey food is included in the rental price.

you can contact us for any additional advice : trekane@orange.fr

