

# Rambling in the Cévennes

## Valley of the Springs

**5 days, 4 nights, 4 days walking.  
Accompanied hike in the heart of the Southern Cévennes**

**Proposed dates of stay:**

- **From April 27th to May 1st 2018.**
- **From June 21st to June 25th 2018.**
- **From 10th September to 14th September 2018**

**For 4 to 8 walkers, luggage transported for you daily, different accommodation each night on a full board basis  
Conviviality, fabulous views, history, nature and a glorious welcome with delicious meals using local produce!**

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*« Nestled between the masses of Mont Lozère and Mont Aigoual, Robert Louis Stevenson's Cévennes are composed of three large valleys that look as if they have literally been cut with an axe. Observed from the crests of the mountains, sharp peaks delineate each of the valleys, which is why this region is often compared to "a green and agitated sea". »*

Our qualified mountain guide, Yann Morizot, who is also a certified Nature Animator, will be thrilled to help you discover the wildlife and the geographical, historical and cultural idiosyncrasies of one of these valleys: The Valley Borgne, where he lives and which he knows intimately.

Immerse yourself in the heart of an area that has beautiful, preserved, landscapes, full of character - a refuge from the steamroller of modern life.

Hike with Yann to share his knowledge and his fascination with the valley. Let your cares float away and enjoy the astounding views, the fauna, flora and the cultural and human heritage during a four-day circular hike.

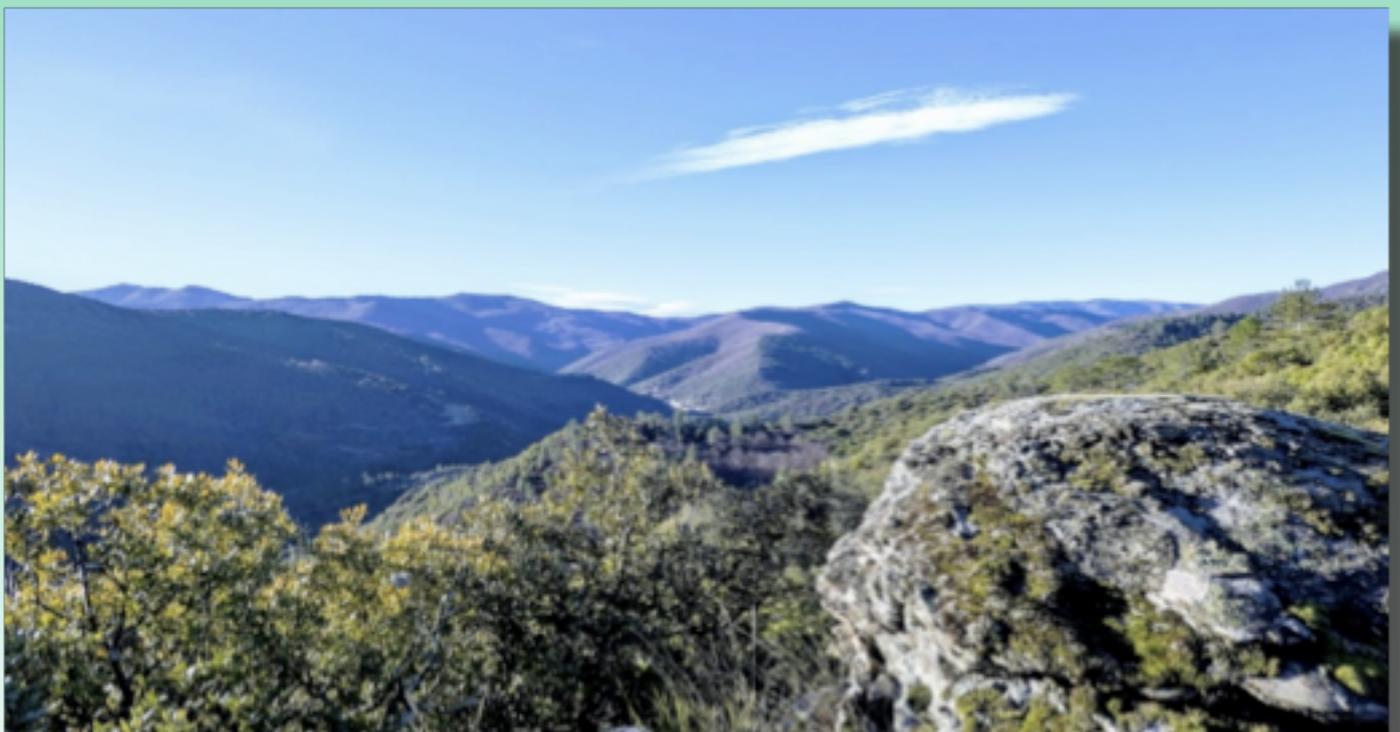
Essential equipment:

- small backpack, water bottle, shoes, cap, sunscreen.

Optional equipment:

- hiking sticks.

**Walks vary between 14 to 18km per day and on average 690 metres climb – so this holiday will suit those with moderate to experienced hiking ability or those who practise sport on a regular basis.**



## Price of the holiday – all inclusive from 465€ per person

### The all inclusive price covers:

- Accommodation full board 325€ per person (80€ for the gîtes of Cambon, Rouquet and Filature and 85€ for the Auberge du Valgrand)

- 140 euros per person for the mountain guide

This price includes:

- Accommodation in a double room or a single room for single people in gîtes, bed and breakfast and auberge accommodation in the Valley Borgne.

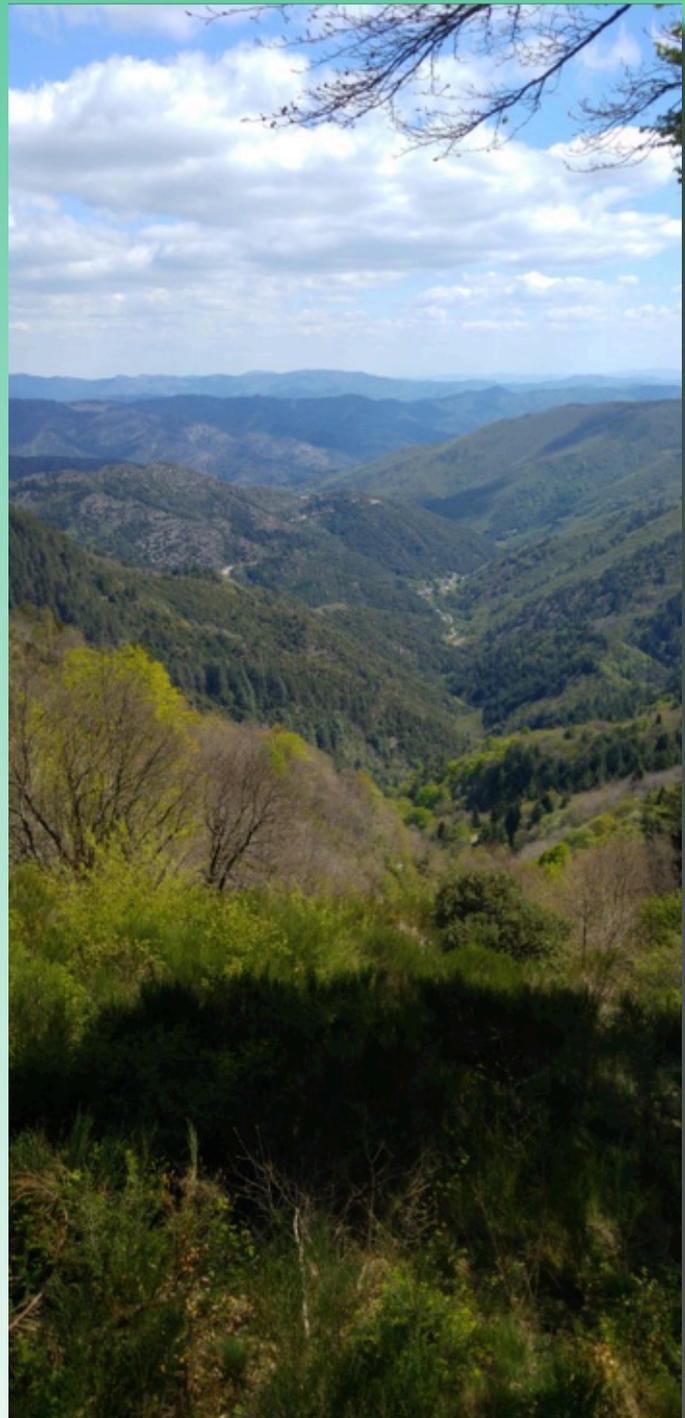
- All meals from dinner on the 1st evening to a picnic lunch on the last day are provided: 4 breakfasts, 4 picnic lunches & 4 dinners (wine and coffee included).

- Transport of luggage from your accommodation each day.

- Mountain guide by your side.

The holiday is available for a minimum of 4 people and a maximum of 8 people. It may be cancelled if the weather conditions forbid (full refund). The hikes may be modified depending on the weather conditions.

According to your needs, abilities and weather conditions, Yann will propose an appropriate route and also provide you with a hard copy of the detailed walking brochure showing the daily hikes.



# An indication of the holiday envisaged, day by day

## Day 1

Arrival in the afternoon at Gîte du Cambon, 3 km from St André de Valborgne. You will be welcomed by Dominique and Henri at the ancient Chateau du Cambon, which is typically Cévenol. A welcome drink will be offered with a presentation of the holiday and then you can settle into the gîte.

The evening meal, provided by the local auberge, will be served in one of the dining rooms of the gîtes.

## Day 2

After a hearty breakfast you will depart with your guide for the first hike of the holiday towards the Cévenol village of Les Plantiers.

Whichever itinerary you choose, you will follow small hiking trails to enjoy the landscapes of chestnut groves, green oak or heathland, cross mountain passes (with exceptional panoramamic views) and pass ancient buildings which witness the ingenious adaptation of

local people to their land, carved over centuries to enable agriculture on terraces supported by dry stone walls – known as «faïsses».

You will be welcomed at the end of the day at the Auberge du Valgrand in the centre of the small village of Les Plantiers where Catherine offers cosy accommodation with an evening meal. Catherine is renowned for her generous and delicious cuisine - an occasion to enjoy a tasty dinner concocted for you using local produce.





## Day 3

After breakfast, you will start on the second stage of your hike, climbing to altitude and eventually dropping down to arrive at the Mas de Pavillon (on the outskirts of l'Estrechure village).

After climbing to more than 1000m you will enjoy a 360° panorama of the Cévennes and Mont Aigoual to the North and on a clear day you will see the Mediterranean sea and the Etang de Thau near Sète in the south. You pass by Bonperrier then to the Col de l'Hom Mort on one of the main «drailles» of the region (paths taken by herds of sheep on their “transhumance” in summer), you will then reach the Col de l'Asclier pass and the Rocher de l'Aigle (Eagle's Rock) and finally descend by a path with breathtaking views to reach the Mas du Pavillon.



Valerie and Henry will welcome you to their corner of paradise hidden in its own little valley, rich in history. You will stay in bedrooms in the old “Magnanerie” (the part of the ancient farmhouse where the ancient inhabitants raised silk worms) and you will be served a hearty meal using local produce.

# Day 4



After breakfast, first stop will be the Col du Mercou (one of the most beautiful views of the «Emerald Valley» towards Lasalle) and the Briontet pass. You will be taking the ancient route of the “Diligence”. It is hard to imagine that this hidden and tranquil path used to bring a stagecoach with horses, post and passengers on the ancient “royal road”! You will walk through the Vallée Obscure «the dark valley» and learn

how the local people learned to manage water – the scarcity in summer and the deluges in the autumn and the spring, by following the “sentier d’interpretation”. Steeped in history, this trail will once again be an opportunity to discuss the Camisard War and the rôle played by this area in providing refuge for protestants in the War of Religion.

Finally you reach the Gardon river and will follow the «canyoning trail» of the Gorges de Soucy, where many lovers of this sport come to enjoy themselves in summer.



Your hosts, Sandrine and Jacques, will be expecting you at the end of the afternoon at the Gîtes of the Filature, in the small village of Estrechure. The filature was a silk mill which closed in the early 1960s, where girls worked to spin the silk produced in the valley at local silk farms (like the Mas du Pavillon where you stayed last night). You will be treated to a delicious meal served and cooked by Sandrine (a trained pastry chef) and will stay in the gîte bedrooms. In summer you will be able to wind down and use the heated outdoor pool and gardens (June-September).



# Day 5

After a gourmet breakfast, you will join the “Serre de la Clapisse” – a route along the crests of the hills above the Gardon river, for the last part of your magnificent adventure in the peaks of the Cévennes.

This “secret path” runs in parallel with the famous Cevennes Corniche, which allows remarkable points of view, to visualize the journey already travelled and to admire the Cévennes landscapes for one last time. You will reach the Tinquos Pass and admire the church of St Martin de Fonfouillouse (one of the remarkable Romanesque churches of the valley) before returning on your final part of the hike to the lodgings of Cambon to pick up your cars.