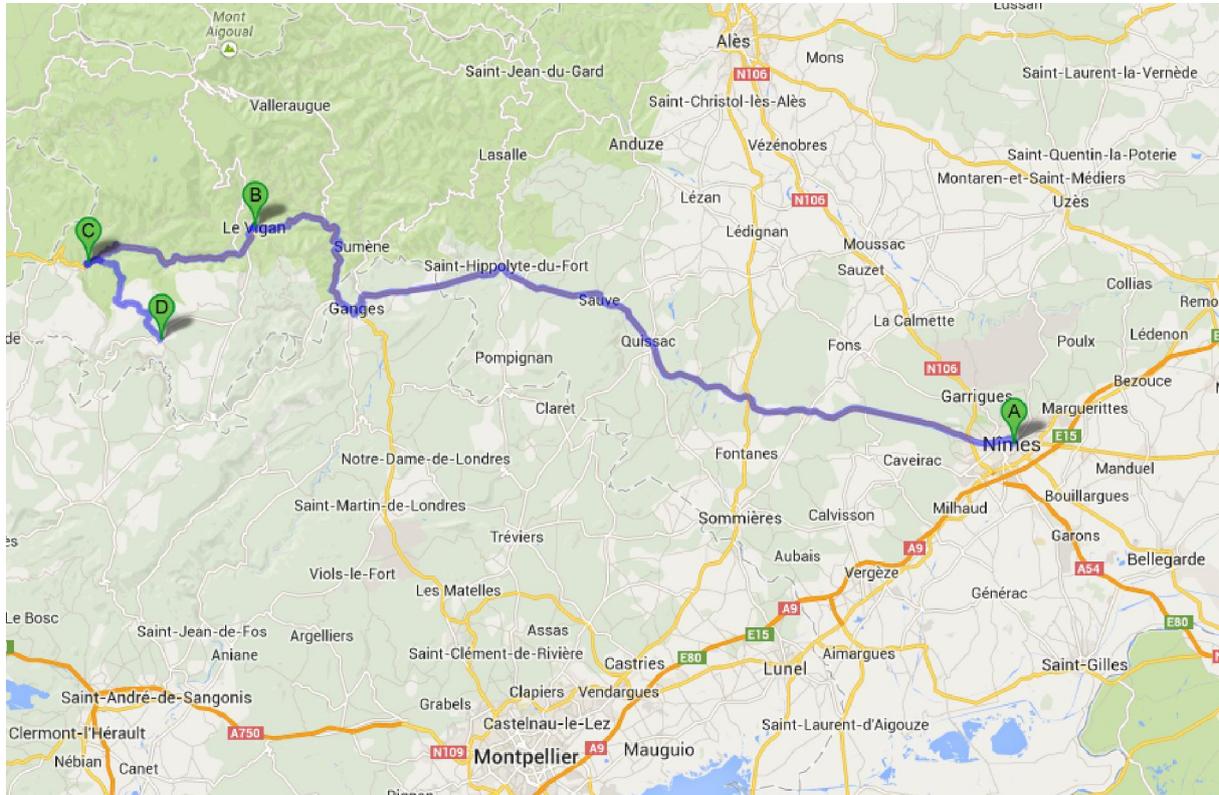


Ideas for excursions- Day trips

"Destination Cirque de Navacelles, mystery of the Navacelles Causses"

I am coming from Nîmes, heading towards Le Vigan



Leaving Nîmes and its imposing Roman architecture, nobody can imagine what awaits visitors on the road to Le Vigan.

On the outskirts of Nîmes scrubland dominates the landscape with alternating vineyards and olive groves specific to this semi-arid country.



It is at St Hippolyte du Fort that the first changes appear. Looking at the horizon, one sees the Cévenol terrain beginning to emerge in the distance.



It is at Ganges that there is a complete change from the Garrigue countryside to the Cévennes valleys. The vines gradually give way to reinette apple orchards and chestnut trees.

Water, rare in the Garrigue, reappears bringing its particular freshness.

A Julien de la Nef, stop at Mas Neuf to sample some of the local products of the Cévennes.



Take a look at the Aigues Folles waterfall, which cascades down during periods of heavy rainfall.



Le Vigan, pearl of the Cévennes

Le Vigan charms visitors with its narrow streets in the heart of town, the fountains, the park of chestnut trees, a medieval quarter around the Cévenol Museum and its beautiful twelfth century bridge.

We continue our journey towards the Cirque de Navacelles choosing to go through Alzon, taking the road to Millau. This is the beginning of a much steeper ascent and anticipates the winding road ahead. We gradually leave the Cévennes environment, the water, the chestnut and oak trees and terraces to enter a new world: that of the **Blandas Causse**.

On the way, we pass through **old and traditional villages**, marked by the history of the silkworm and textiles in general: Bez and Esparon and Arre (a dyeing factory founded by the Brun family of Arre significant in the economic history of these villages).

Leaving Bez and Esparon, you will notice a beautiful Eiffel-style bridge built on an old railway track (the Vigan-Tournemire line) that has been recently renovated as a cycling path for the enjoyment of the whole family.



Leaving Arre, continuing towards Alzon take a moment to pause in one of the laybys to admire the **Rocher d'Ésparon**, a hilltop village and a historical monument, where there are outstanding 360° views of the Cévenol scenery. Leaving Alzon head towards Blandas on the D158.



A new stage of our journey which begins, at last, the journey to the heart of the Navacelles site. Vegetation becomes increasingly rare and we gradually enter a more mineral world.

The limestone plateau of the Blandas Causse



Enigmatic landscapes, mysterious and steppe-like begin to emerge and with them a feeling of being lost at the end of the world. A flock of sheep may suddenly move across the countryside.



In the distance, one may spot a strange rock at the side of the road as if it comes from elsewhere. This is a dolmen, a vestige of past civilizations.



Enter the village of Blandas and have a break at Chez Sam et Virginie, who offer a feast of local products such as Causse lamb and Cévennes goat cheese. When you are replete, continue your way to the Cirque de Navacelles to finally reach the heart of the site and discover **the breathtaking canyon of the Cirque de Navacelles**. Take time to look at the exhibition at the **Cirque restaurant** to get a deeper understanding of the richness of the limestone subsoil of the Blandas Causse.



Make the most of the suggested walk to see the canyon from the three viewpoints specifically designed for visitors.



Once finished, take a moment to drop by the Foux mills, following the road that leads to the hamlet of Navacelles, where the Vis river reappears after a long underground journey and enjoy the sight of the resurgence...



On the road to Navacelles...

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Stops for gourmets

- At Blandas : L'auberge du Causse
- At Cirque de Navacelles : Relais du Cirque

Ideas for gifts and for stocking up on good local produce

- At Blandas : The auberge du Causse (local shop)
- At the Blandas viewpoint : (local produce shop)

Experience a different way of life on the Blandas Causse

- Day rides with horses with Amoz'rando or Cavalquinta tours.
- Hikes on foot or with donkeys, with Paul Remise d'Aven and Calades tours
- Bike tours with Le comptoir du vélo
- Tree climbing circuit at Montardier

Extended stays for hiking or rambling

- Hikers accommodation (gite d'etape), bed & breakfast, family hotels, countryside campsites... visit the websites below.

www.lodevoisetlarzac.fr & www.cc-paysviganais.fr