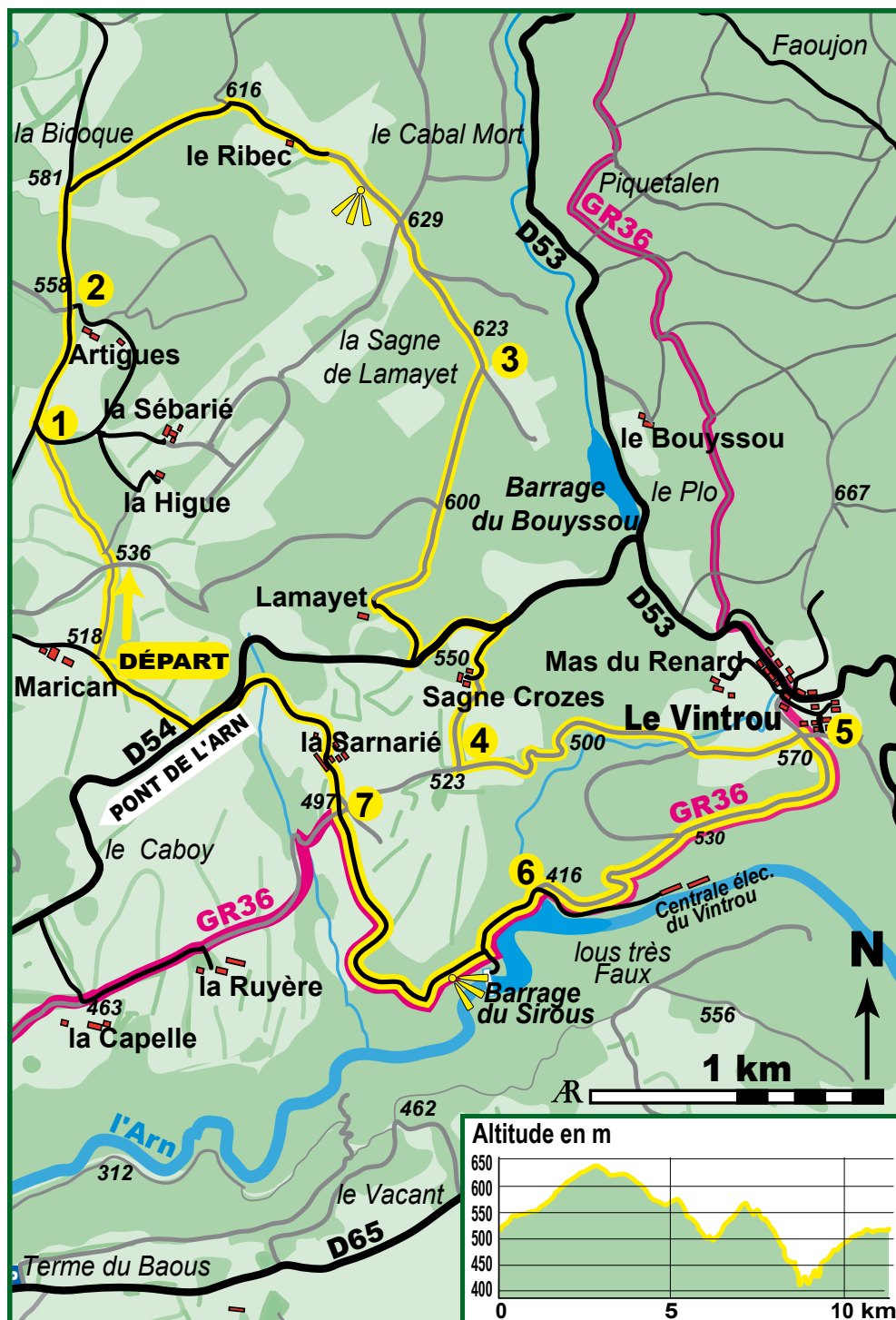


Artigues Fountain

La Fontaine d'Artigues

Tall trees line the Banquet...

From forest tracks and stone paths, this circuit allows you to explore the heights of Pont de l'Arn where the gentle slopes of the plateau suddenly turn into steep valleys. Situated under the sign of water, the mountain reveals the riches that man has been able to take advantage of over the years. The forest is a veritable goldmine, as the rain and fog has helped the growth of the tall trees that compliment the view when hiking... The Douglas firs, more than 30 metres tall, sway on the horizon of the plateau. Despite the importance of forestry, raising animal livestock is also still significant in this area: the vast pastures also flourish in the rainy climate and are a great source of revenue for the beautiful 19th century farms such as Artigues. Finally the hydro-electric plants exploit the energy produced by the strong currents of the Bouyssou and Arn Rivers. Flowing steeply downhill, these rivers have made deep indents into the hard rock plateau. The Banquet gorges, dug out by the River Arn in the centre of the huge granite rocks is one of the main natural attractions of the region, as much for the landscape as the flora.



Pont de L'Arn

13 km - 3 h 45
Elevation : 240 m

Good to know

In the 1930s Le Vintrou, a small community of just 85 inhabitants (5 inhabitants per km²), benefited from the addition of Saints Peyres reservoir. Water is supplied via large pipes to the central turbines of Vintrou from the lake situated 5km away. In addition to hydroelectricity, forestry is an essential resource for the community thanks to the Douglas fir plantations which produce excellent wood to work with.

Access : From the village of Pont de l'Arn, take the D54 towards «Le Vintrou». After 5km, turn left towards «Marican» The car park is marked with a sign just before the hamlet.

Start : From the car park, continue along the tarmac road for 50 m and then take the forest track that rises in front of you 100m before the hamlet of Marican.

① Follow the paved road straight ahead and then turn right at the junction. Artigues Farm.

② At the Artigues fountain continue straight on along the road, then go to the right towards « le Ribec ». You will have a view over the Black Mountains.

③ Leave the main track to the right via a narrow path. Leave the tarmac road to the right by a house and take the D54 to the left after 300 m, and then descend to the right towards «Sagne Croze». Go along next to the farm buildings and then go down.

④ To the right, there is a short variant, then to the left a track descends to the valley. Cross the stream via a small stone bridge. Go back up the valley, cross a penstock and then climb to the left towards Vintrou.

⑤ At the cross, follow the red and white markings for the GR36 towards the right. The rural path descends to the hardwood trees.

⑥ After the small waterfalls follow the road to the right. You will have a view over the Banquet gorges, and the reservoir.

⑦ Leave the GR 36 and go straight on along the tarmac road before crossing Sarnarié farm. Take the D54 for 150 m then take a right towards Marican.

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