

Over the water

Mazamet

6,5 km - 2h30

Elevation: 180m

The pathway of the Industrial Arnette River

Mazamet owes its existence and its economic development to the Arnette River. It is the quality and the force of the tumultuous water flowing down the green slopes of the Montagne Noire that brought the industry to this town.

Taking you on a journey along its banks, through hills and forests, this circuit will allow you to discover the industrial and human evolution that has taken place over the centuries.

Just like a history book, 16 signs retrace the steps of the main elements of this exceptional adventure which, through the wool and leather industry, brought Mazamet and the surrounding Valley international acclaim. They show how the area has benefited since the Middle Ages due to the energy and the purity of the river's water. After centuries of eventful activity, the Arnette River and surrounding valley has finally become a place of tranquility where the quality of this natural environment is respected and preserved. The circuit is the initiative of a partnership between the town of Mazamet, the Association of Heritage Promotion, and the mission for local employment.

Good to know

You will pass important Medieval sites at various points around the valley: the ruins of Saint Sauveur church and the Medieval village of Hautpoul.

You will also pass by the wooden toy museum, la Maison du Bois et du Jouet. Here you can uncover the fables of the mystical woods, find out about local tales, look around the exhibition with interactive activities, visit the wooden toy museum and play games in the hall. There is a shop with hand crafted wooden toys and a café and enough to keep all the family entertained for around 3 hours.

Acces: Find Mazamet's Tourist Office in the centre of town (parking is free and unlimited in the furthest car parking area of la place des Casernes).

Departure: Once you have found the sign indicating the start of this route in front of the Tourist Office go to the top of rue Gaston Cormouls Houlets car park and go up rue de la République and rue du Redondal until you reach the Carcassonne road. Turn right and then take the pathway going up into the forest which will be to your right about 50m along rue de Boutonnet (which turns into rue Haute de Boutonnet).

1 At the crossroads of the 2 paths follow the rise and then take the left turn that goes back down into the Arnette Valley. Cross the D54 and the Arnette River and then take the left hand path that goes back up towards the ruins of the Saint Sauveur church. The point and turret provide panoramic views of the valley.

2 Make sure you don't miss out and go the extra 100m up to see the ruins of St Sauveur church. Come back on to the path to rejoin the descent on the confluence of Linoubre and cross over the Arnette again. You now need to follow the trail to the left that winds through the steep edges of the Arnette.

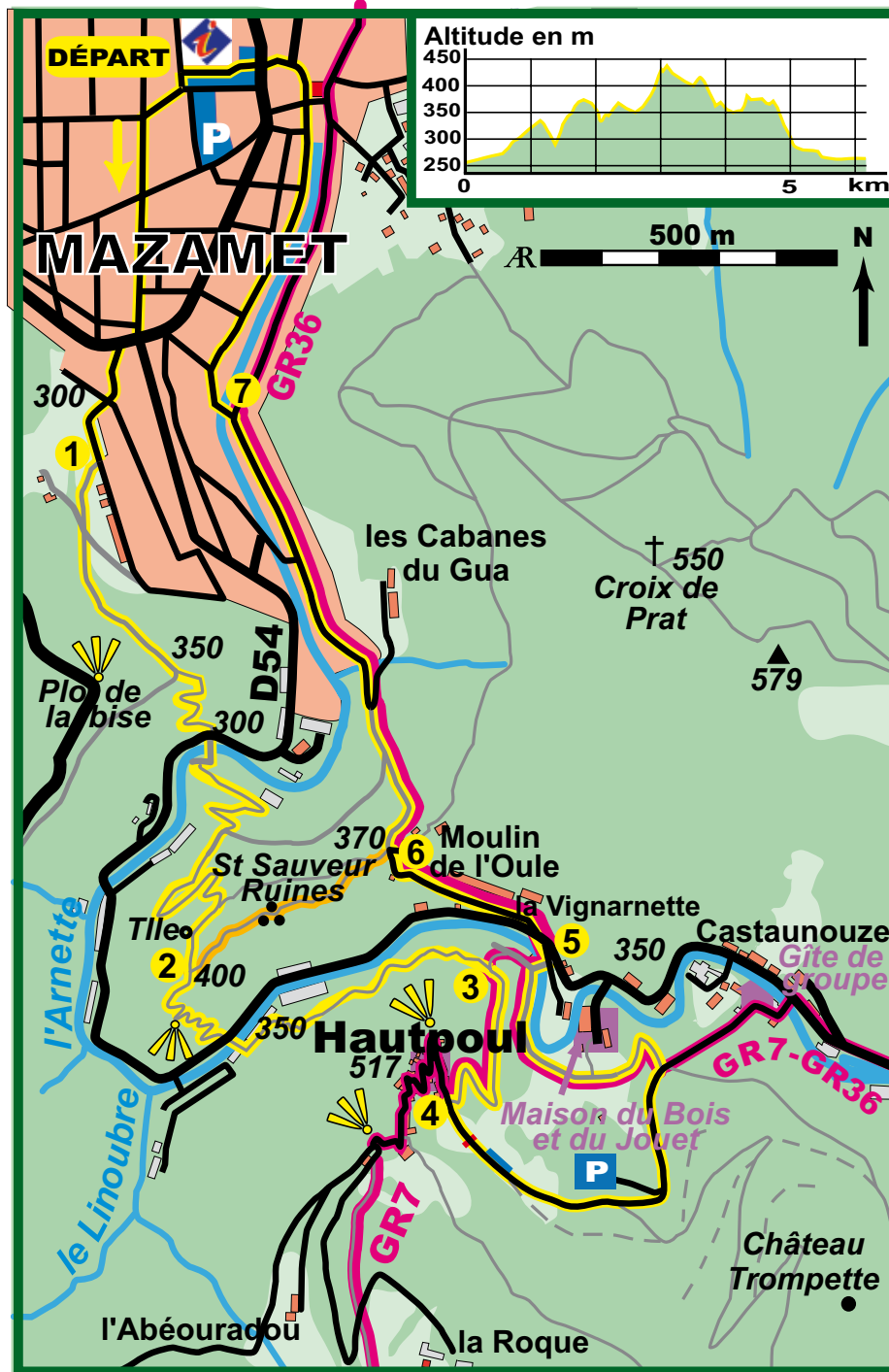
3 Rejoin the GR7 which will allow you to go back up to the historic Medieval Village of Hautpoul, a site of great significance in Cathar history.

4 Leave the GR7 and resume the descent to the Arnette Valley using the paved road for around 400m. By turning left you will rejoin the GR7 which has this section in common with the GR36, which in turn passes next to the wooden toy museum, la Maison du Bois et du Jouet. Follow the path which runs alongside the river and then cross over the Arnette again.

5 Cross the D34 and almost immediately go up the small road for around 200m.

6 You will find the path to the ruins of Saint Sauveur church to the left but you need to follow the path straight on to reach the path partially paved with large stones (la Jarmarié path). You will then find yourself once again alongside the banks of the Arnette with its reservoir of water and industrial buildings

7 Go down rue du Faubourg du Gua, cross the bridge over the Arnette and turn right to go down rue du Galinier. Follow it right to the end. Pass in front of the Mayor's office and then take rue des Boucheries to the left before crossing René Reille, and returning to the Tourist Office.



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