The Chauvet Cave masterpiece
The Pont-d’Arc Cavern was inaugurated on 10 April 2015 by President François Hollande and has been open to the public since 25 April 2015. In less than two years, the Cavern has attracted over 1,000,000 visitors. This figure considerably exceeds the initial target estimation of 800,000 to 850,000 visitors. Whether visiting as a family or with a group of friends, be it from France or elsewhere, visitors have come to admire the world’s largest replica of a decorated cave. They have been able to discover the paintings and engravings of a 36,000-year-old masterpiece, reproduced life-size in its condensed geological and paleontological underground environment. The original Chauvet-Pont-d’Arc Cave was granted UNESCO World Heritage status in 2014.

Over 10 different nationalities have come to the site in its first two years, visitors not only from Belgium, Switzerland, Germany and Great Britain, but also from as far afield as Russia, the United States, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, China, Japan and Singapore. Around 50% of these visitors travelled to the Ardèche with the sole aim of visiting the Cavern. We are maintaining our efforts to ensure the continued success of the site in order to boost both local development and visitor satisfaction. Visitors are now equipped with headphones in order to increase the audibility, immersion and emotional impact of the guided visit.

Unguided evening access to the Cavern is offered during peak periods and this, along with extended opening hours, allows a more leisurely-paced visit. The Cavern is currently hosting its first temporary exhibition, ORIGIN, which will remain open until June 2017.

In our exhibition space, 16 artists evoke their relationship with matter and consider the origins of the creative process.

We are constantly working to innovate and improve our program of workshops, activities and events. The Cavern is also committed to reducing its impact on the environment and is applying for ISO 14001 certification. This international standard seeks to regulate and improve the quality of environmental management. A pilot committee comprised of Cavern employees is working together to achieve this aim.

Another pilot committee is working towards improving accessibility for our disabled visitors. Although the site is already able to accommodate all types of disability, we would like to find even better solutions and we hope to gain a «Tourisme and Handicap” label as proof of our investment.

The Pont-d’Arc Cavern is currently the only cultural destination that represents a UNESCO-listed World Heritage site, which is otherwise inaccessible. The UNESCO label is attracting a new type of public to the region. We are actively collaborating with other nearby UNESCO sites, such as the Pont du Gard, to develop new tourist circuits for these emblematic destinations that will appeal to both individual visitors and groups.

The positive economic impact of the Cavern for the region is undeniable. Almost 30% of visitors to the Cavern came to the Ardèche for the first time, whilst 45% had not been back to visit the region for over 5 years. 25,000,000 euros have already been generated annually in the region since the Cavern opened. In addition to this, 100,000 euros, part of the yearly royalties paid to the Syndicat Mixte and the Ardèche Department, will be invested in 2017 in the preservation of otherwise unprotected rural Ardèche heritage.

Fabrice Tareau,
The Pont-d’Arc Cavern Director.

In the depths of a cave, the first artists in the history of Humanity created a masterpiece of horses, lions, rhinoceroses and other animals captured in time, running, hunting or in open conflict. 36,000 years later, scientists, engineers and artists achieved an unprecedented accomplishment by building a replica of the Pont-d’Arc-Chauvet Cave which allows visitors to re-live the emotion of the initial discovery.

Set in several hectares of natural woodland, the Pont d’Arc Cavern welcomes visitors every day of the year. Our guides will accompany you in your discovery of the decorated cave walls of everyday prehistoric life.

And to complete your visit, you will be able to taste local specialties in our restaurant.

Come and discover your past. Come and meet your heritage.

Kléber Rossillon,
Managing Director of the Kléber Rossillon Company
**Humanity’s first masterpiece**

On a grey Sunday in December 1994 near Vallon-Pont-d’Arc in the Ardèche, Jean-Marie Chauvet, Eliette Brunel and Christian Hillaire, three amateur cavers, made a discovery that would profoundly change our understanding of both art and human history. Some 21,500 years after a rock fall sealed off the original entrance, they entered what was to become known as the decorated Pont-d’Arc or Chauvet Cave. They discovered a 36,000-year-old masterpiece, the oldest known complex work of art – 18,000 years older than Lascaux.

Over 1,000 graphic representations, including 425 animal figures, came to light. The bestiary contains 14 different species, of which the majority are dangerous (cave bears, woolly rhinoceroses, mammoths, lions…) and certain other examples that are unprecedented in Paleolithic rock art (panther, eagle owl, the lower part of a female body). The apparent theatrical staging and the virtuosity in the use of the natural relief and unevenness of the cave walls exude a sense of energy and mastery.

The technical complexity is exceptional and involves a wide range of methods: surfaces have been prepared and scraped clean of debris, engravings incised using stones or fingertips, pigment blown onto the cave walls, palms and hands printed or stenciled, drawings created using charcoal and red ochre, smudging and blending techniques combined to suggest perspective and depth.

The scenes are bought to life through techniques suggesting a form of graphic narration: the hunt, a rhinoceros in full combat, the overlapping of successive images combine to suggest rhythm and movement. This is the earliest known major artistic creation in the world. The cave is, and will no doubt remain in the years to come, an important source of inspiration for contemporary artists.

This work of art has been remarkably well-preserved because of the sealing off of the natural entrance and the object of invaluable and continued research conducted by scientists from around the globe.

**Protection**

The Chauvet-Pont d’Arc Cave was granted World Heritage status by UNESCO in June 2014 because of the combination of three major characteristics that are rarely found together: its age, the quality of its conservation and the wealth and abundance of its artwork.

For obvious conservation reasons, the cave will never be accessible to the public.

**Sharing**

Because of this inaccessibility, how can the contents of the original cave be shared and rendered visible to the general public?

The replica project began to take shape in the early 2000s. A joint association composed of local and regional-ly-elected representatives was created. The Pont-d’Arc Cavern project was conceived and created with the support of the French State, the European Community and the Project Manager, Kleber Rossillon. Five years of research and assessment, followed by 30 months of construction, were necessary in order to meet the challenge of this unique cultural, technological and scientific project.

The Pont-d’Arc Cavern is the largest decorated cave replica in the world.
Behind the scenes of the construction process/recreating the emotion of the original discovery.

The replica construction was the result of a unique and unprecedented teaming-up of architects, designers, technicians, contractors, masons, welders, sculptors, artists, scientists and elected representatives.

Innovative solutions needed to be created using staging techniques, the likes of which had never been envisaged on such a scale before.

Even though the Pont-d’Arc Cavern is two and a half times smaller than the original cave (3,000 m² surface area compared with the 8,500 m² of the Chauvet-Pont-d’Arc Cave) the forms and relief of the decorated cave walls have been replicated to the nearest millimeter. The major paintings, engravings, paleontological and geological features have all been duplicated full-scale using the digitized originals.

Scientists studying the original cave worked directly with the artists involved in the Cavern project to allow them a better comprehension of the context, gestures and meaning that may have been part of the original Paleolithic creative process.

The cloning process was composed of 3 STAGES

IN FIGURES

1. 3D point cloud data was recorded in order to construct multidimensional images that recreate the surfaces and volumes of the original cave.

2. 6,000 digital photos were taken.

3. These photos were superimposed on the computerized models of the corresponding cave walls.

30 MONTHS OF BUILDING WORK

3,000 m² GROUND SURFACE

8,200 m² OF TOTAL SETTING (GROUND, WALLS AND CEILING)

55€ MILLION INVESTED

• Rhône-Alpes Regional Council €14.7M,
• The Ardèche Department €14.7M,
• French State €12.2M,
• European Union €9.9M
• and the management company, Kleber Rossillon €3.5M

Next, this virtual, digitalized shell needed to become a reality.

In order to recreate the cave, the following elements were necessary: 130 km of handmade metal rods, 14,000 hangers for fixing and stabilizing the cave replica, 8,200 m² of sculpted scenery (for the ground, walls and ceilings) representing 52 different types of rock, 27 decorated panels, which in turn represent 250 m² of decorated cave wall, 300 m² of recreated geological elements as well as 550 molded and bleached animal bones.

Two artists and their teams were commissioned to recreate the artwork. Gilles Tosello and Alain Dalis are both world-renowned for their knowledge of prehistoric art.

They were able to reproduce the original gestures and techniques in order to transpose and recreate the emotion of the original work. This goes beyond the idea of a simple copy.
Visiting the Pont-d’Arc Cavern is a unique, timeless, sensory experience.
Oscillating between light and darkness, surrounded by glittering stalactites, stalagmites, calcite draperies, delicate rim stone gours and hundreds of animal bones, we discover the coolness of the cave, imagine the breath of the 14 different species drawn or engraved on the cave walls. We think we can perceive the roar of lions, the growling of a cave bear and the heavy lumbering tread of mammoths. We can sense the speed of galloping horses, feel the lingering heat of a recently abandoned open fire.
As the visit unfolds, we lose track of time and literally follow in the footsteps of our common ancestors. Accompanied by a guide, in small groups of up to 28, we progress along a metal walkway, similar to the one present in the original cave. The walkway takes us, like a rising crescendo, past the 27 decorated panels with their hundreds of animals traced along the cave walls. After 250 meters of walkway, punctuated by 9 observation stations, we enter the final chamber. Out of the shadows burst 92 animals in motion. We are face-to-face with the lion panel, a monumental 12-meter-long creation, a masterpiece of dexterity and innovation.

Improving the visitor experience
The Pont-d’Arc Cavern is constantly working to improve the visitor experience. We have successfully adopted the use of audio-phone headsets and the concept of evening unguided visits. We continue in our desire to innovate in order to enhance the quality of the Cavern visit.

Guided visits with audio-phone headsets
Visitors are now equipped with audio-phone headsets, which allow a better auditory experience and immersion. 540 audio-phones have been put into service.

Unguided evening visits to the Cavern
We have introduced unguided evening visits to the replica during school holidays. This has been a tremendous success. Visitors are able to return with their valid day ticket for a more leisurely evening visit.

NEW IN SEPTEMBER 2017: REGULAR UNGUIDED EVENING VISITS.

NEW IN AUTUMN 2017: Gilbert Coudène, who is renowned for his innovative work at the Lyons Festival of Light, will unveil a new form of lighting in front of the final panels and in the exit corridor of the Cavern. Shimmering light effects will help visitors to re-enter the modern day after their immersion in the depths of this 36,000-year-old torch-lit masterpiece.
When I saw the panel of horses for the first time, I felt the strongest emotion of my entire life. There was nothing scientific in that feeling. I realized that I was standing in front of an extremely great work of art.

Jean Clottes
prehistorian and the first Scientific Director of the decorated Chauvet-Pont-d’Arc Cave

FOCUS ON...

STATION 3
Here, visitors discover a representation composed of red dots. These round forms correspond to a hand whose palm has been colored with an iron oxide-based pigment and applied to the cave wall. The accumulation of dots suggests the outline of an animal. The size of these prints allows us to visualize the person who created them: a tall man with long thin fingers. One surprising detail is that the little finger of the right hand seems to be bent. An anatomical detail that will allow us to identify the handprint elsewhere in the cave...

FOCUS ON...

STATION 9
The panel of horses is a veritable artistic composition, in terms of both its organization and the techniques used. Almost 50 animals are featured in what is clearly a triptych. The Aurignacians scraped the cave walls clean of debris to reveal a contrasting hard white limestone surface. Reindeers, horses, aurochs and bison have been etched across these surfaces with charcoal, their forms highlighted by shading and smudging techniques, which have created tones varying from light grey to dark shades of deep black and brown. A central alcove reveals a courtship scene where a male lion is sniffing the female, who refuses his advances with a clearly depicted snarl. The scene with the two rhinoceroses in face-to-face combat is equally exceptional, since it is extremely rare in rock art to see animals interacting with each other.
Perfectly integrated into the natural environment of the Razal plateau, the Pont-d’Arc Cavern was designed to represent “an imprint in the landscape” by its creators: the architectural agency Fabre Speller (Clermont-Ferrand/Paris) the Ardèche architects office 3A (Le Teil) and the landscape gardener, Franck Neau (Paris).

A sober and discreet architectural style was chosen for this 12-hectare site in order to create a temporal interlude within a natural setting, whilst facilitating public access.

Landscape integration was a priority for this project. Spread over the site are 5 themed buildings: the Cavern replica, Aurignacian Gallery, school workshops, “La Terrasse” restaurant and the shop. These buildings are situated 3 to 6 minutes’ walk from each other and blend into the landscape, in terms of height and form.
After the emotion, explanation. The discovery center, known as the Aurignacian Gallery, allows visitors to contextualize the environment, flora, fauna and climate as it would have appeared to the men and women who lived in the area 36,000 years ago. The visit begins with the showing of a film that immediately plunges the visitor into the Aurignacian landscape around Pont-d’Arc with its animals, cave and paintings. As the film ends and the lights come up, double doors open under the screen and usher the visitor into an immersive environment where visitors find themselves surrounded by prehistoric animals in their tundra landscape. The daily life of Aurignacian families and the activities of the artists are depicted in realistic settings.

The exhibition revolves around three main themes:

> The Ardèche 36,000 years ago: as the glacial period gripped the earth, this section of the museum sets out to illustrate the face of the Ardèche at that time: the landscapes as they were seen by our ancestors and the incredible bestiary they depicted. Cave lions and cave bears, mammoths, woolly rhinoceroses, megaloceroses and bison are presented life-size in a spectacular setting.

> Our prehistoric ancestors: this part of the exhibition gives an overview of what we currently know about the Aurignacian culture that painted the walls of the Chauvet-Pont-d’Arc Cave. Who were they? Where did they come from? How did they live?

> Rock art, the art of our origins: this is the main theme of the exhibition and represents the key point of the visit. The Pont-d’Arc Cavern is the only site in France, and one of the rare sites in the world, that covers the subject of Aurignacian art. The exhibition presents evidence and theory concerning the techniques and themes found in the Chauvet-Pont-d’Arc Cave, but also addresses the fundamental question of meaning. The experience is educational, esthetic, interactive and fun.

In order to deepen understanding of other periods and other aspects of prehistory, the visitor can also go to the "Cité de la Préhistoire" at Le Grand Site de l’Aven d’Orgnac.
Our pedagogical service proposes workshops for school, extracurricular and special needs groups. Our workshops are organized by cultural mediators who adapt their approach and content according to the participants and age group. Each themed workshop is constructed and tailored to meet the requirements of each academic cycle from infant school to high school level. Our approach is based on discovery, experimentation and pleasure. It is an out-of-classroom experience that is unique in its way of exploring this key part of our common heritage. Activities take place on-site, in the cave workshop (unique in France) or outside when the weather permits.

There are two main aims:
- To share scientific knowledge about prehistory
- To participate in the promotion of art education

In association with the national education system
Teachers, specialized in science and philosophy, have been working alongside the Cavern mediation team since the opening of the site, in order to reinforce educational quality and the dialogue with teaching professionals.

Organize your stay with our partner, Passerelle Patrimoine
Passerelle Patrimoine is the Ardèche cultural mediation network, which organizes school tour visits with, and to, the following sites: the Pont-d’Arc Cavern, Cité de la Préhistoire Museum, Ardèche Gorge Syndicate, Southern Vivarais “Pays d’art et de l’histoire”, the Museal Museum at Alba-La-Romaine and Mont d’Ardèche Regional Nature Park.

contact@passerelles-patrimoines-ardeche.com
www.passerelles-patrimoines-ardeche.com

Examples of interactive workshops:
- “Human Evolution” from infant school to high school level.
- For infant schools
  - “Man is an animal.” What is an animal?
    How can we classify the different types of animals? Where do we place Man in this classification? Practical exercises and games that introduce young children to evolutionary theory.
  - “Man is an ape.”
    Using human skull replicas, students discover the different human species that existed and are invited to question the definition of what makes humans, human.
    The main theories of evolution, genomics and phylogenetics are presented and discussed.

Features of the interactive workshops:

Interactive workshop themes (available only in French)

- Human Evolution
- Hunting
- Adornment
- Clay Modelling
- Storytelling “The Secret of Fire”
- Fire-making
- Cavern Careers

In order to allow school groups to experiment with rock art painting techniques in conditions that reproduce as closely as possible those of a real cave, the Pont-d’Arc Cavern has created the cave workshop, a 90 m² recreation of an underground environment with its forms, relief and textures.

Our young visitors become experimental prehistoric artists and try out drawing and painting techniques on the cave walls using the same ochre and charcoal as the Aurignacian artists.

School holidays 2017
Following the immense success of the Cave Painting Workshop with school groups, the Cavern now opens the workshop to families during the school holidays. Experiment with the various hand-painting techniques and leave your mark for posterity.

The Cave Painting workshop

For infants
“Man is an animal.” What is an animal?
How can we classify the different types of animals? Where do we place Man in this classification? Practical exercises and games that introduce young children to evolutionary theory.

For High Schools
“Man is an ape.”
Using human skull replicas, students discover the different human species that existed and are invited to question the definition of what makes humans, human.

NEW IN SPRING 2017
The site is growing and constantly improving!
Two new classroom domes are under construction. These can accommodate classes of up to 30 students. To enhance conditions further and to meet the overwhelming demand, the site will mobilize more guides to accompany school groups.
FAMILIES

As well as guided visits, the Pont-d’Arc Cavern also proposes hands-on activities and demonstrations for children and families during the school holidays and the weekends of May, June and September.

Spear-throwing

What weapons did prehistoric people use? Did they hunt the same animals that they drew in caves? After a presentation of the animals, arms and hunting strategies of the time, participants can try hunting using a spear thrower, an innovation created by our Cro-Magnon ancestors. New Hunting Area in 2017!

Leave your mark!

Paleolithic people left hand prints on the cave walls, a moving and characteristic testimony of rock art. Now it is your turn to leave your mark on the walls of the Cave Workshop. This activity is not available during the summer peak period.

Mini-Conference – Let’s Talk About Prehistory: …

Intended for 6-12-year-olds and their families. An interactive slide-show presentation with commentary allows the visitor to discover more about the Aurignacians, their environment and living conditions. The guide-mediator is present to answer all your questions.

Story time: “Naly and the Secret of Fire”

How did prehistoric people light their fires? Younger children will discover the answer by listening to the story of the brave and curious Naly, who goes looking for this mysterious secret. Scenography and projected silhouette figures combine with the storyteller’s words to create a timeless tale of discovery.

Paleolithic Camp

Hidden away in oak woodland, this living reenactment of a Paleolithic campsite plunges the visitor into the everyday life of our ancestors.

Live demonstrations and discussions with the guides allow the participants to gain a better understanding of Paleolithic lifestyle. Each of the four tents presents a different theme:

> What light sources were used?
From flame to charcoal, understand the importance of fire not only as part of everyday life, but also in the context of cave art. What techniques and materials did they use?

> Paleolithic food: what did they eat?
Discover how archeology can reveal the culinary tastes of our prehistoric ancestors. Were they mainly vegetarian or carnivorous?

> International Tent

NEW IN 2017

NEW IN 2017

> AN INTERNATIONAL TENT IN THE PALEOLITHIC CAMP
The camp now has an international tent where the themes of “light, food and sculpture in prehistoric times” are presented in English and occasionally in German.

> ALL-NEW HUNTING AREA
The spear-throwing training area has been moved and improved with a new shaded canopy. It is now part of the wider Paleolithic Camp area that provides total immersion in the universe of our Aurignacian ancestors. Visitors can now move from the spear-throwing area to the Paleolithic Camp along a new walkway, which allows the visitor to remain engrossed in the Paleolithic atmosphere just that little bit longer.

Groups

Conferences:
Would you like to find out more and deepen your understanding of themes relating to the site?
Our cultural service proposes two conference themes:
- The Chauvet-Pont-d’Arc Cave in Relation to European Prehistoric Art.
- The Pont-d’Arc Cavern: Universal Value and Replica.
Duration: 1 hour + questions.

Workshops and teambuilding:
The Pont-d’Arc Cavern offers fun, original, teambuilding activities that can be adapted to suit your requirements (parietal art, fire, spear throwing…).

Groups

Seminars and private functions:
Businesses, associations or institutions can hold their professional seminars at the Pont-d’Arc Cavern or reserve the site for their own private use*.

> DISCOVER THE UNESCO HERITAGE SITES IN THE REGION
The Pont-d’Arc Cavern and the Pont de Gard propose a joint day-visit under the UNESCO banner.

> COMING SOON: WALKS AND HIKES AROUND THE CAVERN
Several themed walks (flora, fauna, geology, etc.) between the Pont-d’Arc arch and the Cavern will soon be available. These are proposed as a complement to the guided Cavern tour. The shorter 1-hour walks are ideal for occasional walkers, whereas the longer 3-hour walks will cater to the tastes of the more hardy participants.

Professional

This reinforces our working partnership with other tourism professionals. For availability, conditions and rates please contact our Groups service:
groupes@cavernedupontdarc.fr

Details can be found in our brochure or on our website.
Journées du Matrimoine Pre-HERstory!

Women are part of our cultural heritage. 36,000 years ago, symbols of femininity were engraved or drawn on cave walls. One of the most beautiful and intriguing Paleolithic Venus representations can be found in the deepest gallery of the Chauvet cave, in the womb of the earth.

What do we know about Prehistoric women?

Four days are dedicated to defining the place of women in Prehistory.

• A conference by Claudine Cohen. What is our acquired scientific knowledge relating to prehistoric women?
• A play: “Madame de Néanderthal” by the Java Rebelle theater company (a humorous play inspired by the eponymous book, written by paleontologist, Marylène-Patou Matsi).
• Themed guided visits “Alcove Secrets: an Ode to Femininity”
• Fun Activities: clay-modelling, steatite sculpting and painting in the Cave workshop.
• Readings: in the shelter of the observation stations, along the wooded walkways.
• The children’s festival “Môme z’emerveille”: activities and workshops for children.
• A special menu created by the restaurant chef, featuring a “matrimoine” dessert.

National Archeology Day

Hands-on archeological excavation workshops, theory and practice.

Astronomy evenings “le bestiaire étoilé”

Following on from last year’s success, visitors can once again observe the night sky and its celestial bestiary every Thursday evening during the summer months.

In partnership with the “Arche des métiers”.

World Music Day

World Music Day with the Ardèche Conservatory of Music and Dance.

The Ardèche Conservatory of Music and Dance has joined forces with the Pont-d’Arc Cavern to create an unprecedented event.

Featuring: The 40 musicians of the Ardèche Symphonic Orchestra, the Dance Conservatory of Lyon, the Choir associations of Rochemaure, Colombier-le-Vieux and the St Michel de Pierrelatte College.

Program: Suite No. 1 from Carmen by George Bizet and extracts from Carmina Burana by Carl Orff, Fauat’s Damnation.

NEW IN 2017

16 April: The Eagle Owl Egg Hunt

The mysterious Eagle Owl has laid its eggs somewhere in the Cavern grounds. Children aged between 2 to 12-years-old are invited to come and find them and to take home chocolate owls that have been created specially by the Valrhona Company. Special Cavern chocolates, activities and workshops.

UNTIL

30 June

ORIGIN – a temporary exhibition

16 artists, who suggest, convok, imagine, shape and give life to matter.

The exhibition press pack can be downloaded at http://www.cavernedupontdarc.fr/ espace-presse/
The Pont-d’Arc Cavern has a self-service restaurant area, La Terrasse, which serves regional and traditional lunchtime meals to both groups and individuals. The restaurant is open in the evening during the summer holidays and for certain special events.

The Chef offers seasonal, locally-inspired dishes such as roast Caillette (Ardèche Swiss chard meatballs), farmer’s pork shoulder basted with chestnut honey, cocoa beans and fig vinaigrette, trout fillet with Ardèche almonds, generously sized salads, cold meat and cheese platters, Lou Pisadou (chestnut melt) blueberry muffins…

There is a snack and takeaway service that also offers locally-made ice cream and hot or cold drinks.

Decorated by the artist, Frederic Matthieu, and with a unique view of the Ardèche hills, the restaurant can seat up to 180 diners. A 72-seat covered terrace and an additional 84-seat open terrace complement the capacity and attraction of this lunch venue.

The restaurant is open every day during site opening times. Groups must make advance bookings. No reservation is required for individual visitors.

The bookshop offers a wide range of books on prehistory to appeal to all levels of interest.

Regional products and locally-made craft items will allow visitors to go home with a souvenir of their stay in the area.

La Boutique is open every day during site opening hours.

In 2017 the bookshop is expanding its offer with even more titles about prehistory.
THE AUVERGNE RHÔNE-ALPES REGION:
A CULTURAL TREASURE TROVE

36,000 years
OF CULTURAL, ARTISTIC AND HUMAN HISTORY IN AN EXCEPTIONAL NATURAL SETTING

Discovered in 1994 in the Ardèche at Vallon-Pont-d’Arc, the decorated Chauvet-Pont-d’Arc Cave with its 36,000-year-old paintings is regarded as being the birthplace of art. This jewel of humanity, granted UNESCO world heritage status in June 2014, completes the cultural treasure trove of the Rhône valley, home to some of Europe’s most beautiful sites: the Pont du Gard, Roman sites in Arles, the Palais des Papes in Avignon in the south and the historical center of Vieux Lyon in the north.

The Ardèche: nature and culture, a seductive combination

The Ardèche region possesses unrivalled natural and cultural riches, and seduces the visitor with its wealth and concentration of remarkable sites: the magnificent natural setting of the Ardèche Gorges and its National Park, l’Aven d’Orgnac, which is classed among the 14 “Grands sites de France”, the Regional Mont d’Ardèche Park, picturesque villages such as Vògue and Balazuc, classed among the “Plus Beaux Villages de France”, or Saint Montan or Labeaume, known as “Villages de Caractère”.

The Ardèche offers an unspoiled natural environment that provides unlimited possibilities for sportsmen and thrill seekers both above and below ground.

The Ardèche is a stimulating experience, a voyage of discovery that can be made all-year-round. A journey that is enhanced by the change of seasons, the evolving colors, smells, sounds and atmosphere of flowing rivers, the succession of cultural and sporting events, and the bustle of regional markets.

To find out more, go to our website
www.ardeche-guide.com

FOCUS ON...
A REGIONAL RECEPTION AREA AT THE CAVERN

Situated next to the Cavern shop, “Welcome Ardèche, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes” is a reception area dedicated to the promotion of regional attractions. It highlights the diverse and surprising activities and sites that can be experienced in the Ardèche, with the aim of tempting visitors to prolong their stay in the region.

Films and touch screen terminals allow access to practical information concerning the Ardèche and its region. A fun, intuitive and fully connected means of making sure you don’t miss out on something during your stay!

To find out more about this regional reception area, go to the website of l’Agence du Développement Touristique de l’Ardèche” at
adt07@ardeche-guide.com

To find out more, go to our website
www.ardeche-guide.com
www.pontdarc-ardeche.fr
The Cavern is a member of the “Ardèche Loisirs et Patrimoine” network. This is an association of 38 sites of particular cultural and touristic interest, which allows visitors to discover the architectural heritage, caves, national parks, archeology, history, craftsmanship and industrial heritage of the region.

The Cavern is also an active participant in the “Carte Pass Ardeche” initiative. This is a pre-paid card that is valid for 3 or 6 days or for 1 year depending on your choice, allowing access to the 27 sites in the network.

The special partnership with l’Aven d’Orgnac, which began in the summer of 2015, continues in 2017.

L’Aven d’Orgnac is the other unmissable Ardèche venue. The site includes the Orgnac Cave, Cité de la Préhistoire Museum and hosts a varied programme of events.

Each year 160,000 people discover the Orgnac Cave, France’s 3rd most visited natural subterranean marvel, while the museum allows them to retrace and discover their human origins. The site is the first in France to be granted renewal of the “Grand Site” label by the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable development.

The partnership represents a bridge that intricately links the prehistoric and subterranean theme of both sites.

Purchasing an admission ticket to the Pont-d’Arc Cavern allows free entry to the Cité de la Préhistoire Museum at l’Aven d’Orgnac and a reduced rate of €10 to the Orgnac Cave.

Purchasing an admission ticket to the “Grand Site” l’Aven d’Orgnac allows a reduction of €1 per adult and €0.50 per child (10-17-year-olds) for admission to the Pont-d’Arc Cavern.

This offer is valid for 7 days only, from the day of the first visit and on presentation of the original tickets.

This offer is not applicable to the online ticketing of l’Aven d’Orgnac.
# Practical Information

## How to Get to the Pont-d’Arc Cavern

### By Road

**ACCESS:** from the north on the A7 motorway and A49, exit 18; and from the south on the A7, exits Chanas, Tain l’Hermitage, Valence Sud, Loriol, Montélimar Sud, Bollène.

Or A9 exit 19, then follow the N7 and D4, towards Vallon-Pont-d’Arc.

### By Train

Valence TGV train station or Montélimar, then Rhône-Alpes bus, line 76 to Vallon-Pont-d’Arc.

### By Bus

To consult regular bus services and timetables go to: www.lesept.fr

### By Plane

Marseille Provence Airport or Lyon-Saint Exupéry Airport

---

GPS coordinates: 44.4056/4.4030

Two and a half hours from Lyon, Marseille and Montpellier.

One and a half hours from Avignon, Nîmes and Valence.

Free day-time car park for cars, coaches and camper vans.
OPENING TIMES:
The Cavern is open every day of the year. In August, until 10.30 pm

ADMISSION PRICES 2017

INDIVIDUAL RATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>€13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-17-year-olds</td>
<td>€6.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 10 (as part of a family visit)</td>
<td>Free admission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cavern Pass (valid for one year)</td>
<td>€26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ardeche Pass from</td>
<td>€31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GROUP RATES
A group consists of at least 20 paying visitors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>€11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-17-year-olds</td>
<td>€6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Accompanying person and/or driver: 1 free admission per group.
Booking is obligatory for all group visits.
For further information please contact our sales department at the following address: groupes@caverndupontdarc.fr

SCHOOL RATES
Go to www.caverndupontdarc.fr

BOOKING
• For your comfort and convenience, book online at www.caverndupontdarc.fr
• For individual visits, book using our online ticket service at www.caverndupontdarc.fr
• For group visits, booking can be made directly online at www.caverndupontdarc.fr/espace-groupes or by mail: groupes@caverndupontdarc.fr

Or by post: Caverne du Pont d’Arc
Plateau du Razal - 07150 Vallon Pont d’Arc

For school visits, booking can be made directly online at www.caverndupontdarc.fr/espace-scolaires/preparez-votre-visite-scolaire-classes-ecoles/ or by mail: pedagogie@cavemontpontdarc.fr
For enquiries about school visits you can also contact us by phone: +33(0)4 75 94 39 46

THE VISIT
A complete visit of the Pont d’Arc Cavern site takes about 3 hours.

FREE AUDIOGUIDES AVAILABLE IN 10 LANGUAGES

N.B The visit time, which will be confirmed by our sales team, indicates the time at which your visit begins.
All groups need to arrive at reception 30 minutes before their visit time.

Except guide dogs
Photos prohibited in the replica
The Pont-d’Arc Cavern is committed to offering the best possible visiting conditions for all our visitors. The site aims to provide accessibility for the widest range of visitors, whatever their specific requirements might be. Every effort is being made to ensure a high-quality and equal service to all our visitors, without any form of discrimination.

Diverse support measures are available and others are in the process of being implemented:
• Wheelchairs are available at the reception area.
• Magnetic loop amplifiers will be available in all the main buildings in order to improve communication with hearing-impaired visitors.

We are busy developing specific types of visit and mediation for visually-impaired or blind visitors: We have already conceived raised relief booklets to accompany the Cavern visit.

For our hearing impaired or deaf visitors, we can offer:
• Audio guides with audio descriptions available in 4 languages (French/English/German/Dutch) to improve the Cavern visit.
• Whiteboards, which allow the guide to interact with deaf visitors.
• Written tour booklets of the Cavern visit.
• Our educational “Art” and “Hunting” workshops are adapted for all types of visitor requirement.
• Our other workshops can be adapted on request.

For further information, please contact our Accessibility Project Manager, Elise Bellec, at accessibility@cavernedupontdarc.fr
Plateau du Razal
07150 Vallon Pont d’Arc

+33 (0)4 75 94 39 40
infos@cavernedupontdarc.fr
www.cavernedupontdarc.fr

CONTACT
Sophie Lefèvre
Communication manager
+33 (0)9 70 52 00 12
+33 (0)6 45 76 31 70
s.lefevre@cavernedupontdarc.fr

SERCPA
(Société d’Exploitation
de la Caverne du Pont-d’Arc)
+33 (0) 4 75 94 39 40
infos@cavernedupontdarc.fr