



### **Château de Boisson,**

30500 Allègre-Les Fumades, France

**T:** +33 (0)4 66 24 85 61

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### **GPS co-ordinates**

Latitude: 44.2086

Longitude: 4.2581



# Campsite Information

## Château de Boisson, St Ambroix

Set on a hillside, and awarded a prestigious 'three red tent' rating by Michelin, the facilities on this small site are housed in the buildings and courtyard of the old château. There is a swimming pool with water slide and paddling pool, plus a heated indoor pool, as well as tennis courts and a sports area for those feeling more active.

### Arriving at Château de Boisson

On arrival, go to the Canvas reception, your Canvas couriers will be here to meet you between 16.00 and 20.00.

### Early/Late Arrivals

Please note if you arrive before 16.00, your accommodation may not be ready. If you arrive between 20.00 and 22.00, you will find directions to your courier and/or accommodation at the Canvas reception. Arrivals after 22.00 cannot be accepted on site. Please note that if you do arrive late and cannot be admitted onto the campsite, you have full responsibility for finding alternative off-site accommodation. A Canvas courier will be available on site from 09.00 the following day. Please telephone your couriers if you know that you are going to be late.

### Reception

The campsite reception is open from 08.30 to 12.30 and 13.30 to 19.00.

### Barrier

The campsite barrier is open from 07.00 until 22.30. There is a €50 cash deposit to pay for a barrier key.

### Currency Exchange

This service is not available on site. The nearest place for currency and traveller's cheque exchange is in Ales. Your courier will be able to give you more information.

### Telephone

There are card operated phones on site. Phone cards can be purchased at reception.

### Web/Email Access

Internet and WiFi access is available on site. There are also cyber cafés in St. Ambroix and Alès - check with your couriers for further details.

### Shopping

The small on-site shop sells groceries, bread and alcohol. Please check opening times on site with your courier. The shop is open 07.30 to 11.00 and 17.00 to 19.30 in both high and low season.

### Washing and Toilet Facilities

There are washing machines and tumble dryers on site (tokens are available from reception for €5 (includes washing powder) for a washing machine and €4 for a tumble dryer) as well as free iron hire, free hot showers, standard toilets, wash cubicles with hot water.

### Post

There is a post box outside the campsite reception and stamps can be purchased from here.

### Eating and Drinking

**Bar:** The bar is open from 18.00 - 23.00 throughout the season. Pizzas can be ordered here.

**Restaurant:** The restaurant serves traditional dishes. Seating is available inside as well as on the large covered terrace. In low season the restaurant menu is available for pizzas. The restaurant is open from 19.00 to 21.30.

**Takeaway:** The takeaway serves pizza, salads, chips, sandwiches and ice-cream. Please order your pizza in advance at the snack bar during the day and in the

evening at the bar. Please check with your couriers for opening hours. The takeaway opens on the 1st June. In May you can order takeaway from the restaurant and in high season snacks are served around the pool area between 12.00 and 20.00.

### Entertainment

The site organises a variety of activities and evening entertainment in high season, including disco nights, magic shows, karaoke and sports competitions. Excursions such as canoe trips can be booked at reception. There are painting classes on site for adults in May and September. The painting classes are popular, and sometimes need to be booked in advance through the campsite.

### Recreation

**Swimming:** There is a swimming pool with water slide and paddling pool, plus a heated indoor pool. Please note that swimming trunks are compulsory in the pools. Smoking, eating and drinking are forbidden in the pool area. The pool is open from 10.00 to 19.30.

**Tennis:** Tennis courts are available for €6.50 per hour, bookable at reception. The campsite does not supply rackets and balls. Shoes with black soles are forbidden.

**Multi sports area:** The campsite has a multi sports area, please ask your couriers for more details.

**Petanque/Boules:** There are facilities to play petanque. You can borrow the balls from the Canvas games chest, or rent them from the campsite reception (a hire charge applies along with €10 deposit).

**Table tennis:** Table tennis is free of charge. Bats and balls can be borrowed from the Canvas games chest, or rented from the campsite reception (bats are €1 per day, balls are for sale for approx €1).

### Canvas Active

Canvas Active is available at Château de Boisson. Canvas customers have researched walking routes in the local area. For further details please see the activities booklet, downloadable from the Canvas Holidays website.

### Rules and Regulations

- Silence on site from 22.30 to 07.00.
- There is a speed limit of 10km/h on site.
- Only one car is allowed per emplacement.
- Swimming trunks are compulsory in the pool.
- Charcoal barbecues are prohibited.
- Please use the recycling facilities.



# Local Information

## Shopping

**Supermarkets:** St Ambroix has several supermarkets and there are hypermarkets in Alès. There are branches of Carrefour and Intermarché in St Ambroix. Open Monday to Saturday 08.30 to 20.00.

**Souvenirs:** There are numerous gift shops in Salindres, Alès and St Ambroix.

## Local Markets

**Monday:** Nîmes, Les Fumades.  
**Tuesday:** St Ambroix and Nîmes.  
**Wednesday:** Bagnols sur Cèze, Uzès.  
**Thursday:** Besseges, Allègre-les Fumades, Vallon-Pont d'Arc.  
**Friday:** Ruoms, Barjac and Nîmes.  
**Saturday:** Uzès and Les Vans.

There is also a market in Alès every day except Saturday.

## Facilities

**Petrol:** The nearest filling station is at the Champion supermarket in St Ambroix. There is also a petrol station available at the Cora supermarket in Ales.

**Banks:** There are banks in Salindres and St. Ambroix with cash machines. The Casino in Allègre-Les Fumades also has a cash point.

**Chemist:** The nearest chemist is on Boulevard Portalet in St Ambroix.

**Post Office:** The nearest post office is in St Ambroix, open 08.30 to 12.00 and 14.15 to 17.00, Monday to Saturday.

**Tourist Information:** The nearest tourist information office is in Allègre-Les Fumades.

**Internet:** There are cyber-café's in St Ambroix and Alès.

Please ask on site for directions and opening hours for all of the above facilities.

## Distances

**St Ambroix:** 10km (6 miles)  
**Alès:** 19km (12 miles)  
**Pont du Gard:** 47km (29 miles)  
**Nîmes:** 57km (35 miles)  
**Avignon:** 73km (45 miles)

## Local Transport

The nearest train station is in Alès with connections to Nîmes and Marseilles.

## Doctor

Drs Vetricier/Beau/Compans on Rue Henri Merle in Salindres.

Tel: 04 66 85 61 64.

## Dentist

Dr Allard at Saut du Loupin Rousson.

Tel: 04 66 85 74 09.

## Emergency Services

There is a two-digit phone number for emergency services:

Police 17  
Fire 18  
Ambulance 15

## Eating and Drinking

You may like to try these restaurants and bars, which have been recommended by Canvas customers and couriers in previous years:

**Le Banancier:** In Uzès. Exceptional pizzas. Huge portions at small prices! The salads are good too.

**La Farigouletter:** In Synes. Highly recommended, especially for the great value set menus.



**Guinguette Moulin du Roc Tombé:** In St Ambroix. This pizzeria is reasonably priced and offers a children's menu and playground.

**Restaurant Melusine:** In Bagnols-sur-Cèze. Tasty local dishes at reasonable prices. Special children's menus available.

**La Grillade:** Near St Jean de Maruéjols. Set menus at good prices.

## Nearby

**Pont du Gard** • A huge, three tiered aqueduct constructed around the 1st century BC to supply water to Roman Nîmes. Built with massive stones and no mortar, it has survived the test of time. The best view of the Pont du Gard is from the hill on the northern side (left bank) about 200m from the aqueduct. 40km northeast of Nîmes.

**St-Jean-du-Gard** • A bright and cheerful town situated in the centre of the Cévennes mountains. Here you can catch Le Train à Vapeur des Cévennes, a steam train that chugs through the spectacular scenery of the Vallée des Gardons. You can stop at the Bambouseraie or just relax and enjoy the trip. Visit the Musée des Vallées Cévenoles to see traditional objects in daily use. Children will enjoy a trip to the Magic Voyage, a transport museum with a difference. Near St-Jean, in Mas Soubeyran, is the Musée du Désert which recaptures life at the time of the Camisards' struggle to achieve liberty in the 17th and 18th centuries.



**Uzès** • The setting for the 1990 film 'Cyrano de Bergerac', this medieval town is a great place to spend the day. Stroll around the narrow streets and tiny squares; visit the herb garden and the Château Ducal, which offers guided tours.

**Gorges de l'Ardèche** • From narrow ravines and waterfalls to broad meadows and pastures, through a succession of fine old towns, villages, castles, caves, and abbeys. The gorges are at their most spectacular between Pont d'Arc (a long natural arch spanning the river) and St Martin. Between these two points a Corniche road gives spectacular views plummeting into a limestone gorge carved through the Bas Vivarais by the waters of the Ardèche.

**Avignon** • An artistic and cultural centre surrounded by 14th century ramparts. The first bridge to span the Rhône was built at Avignon in the 12th century. Although only part of the bridge remains you can still visit it and the tiny Chapelle St-Nicolas which stands on the second pillar. Avignon was home to the popes in the 14th century and the Palais des Papes still dominates the city. A guided tour takes you through all the rooms of the palace. Near the palace is the Cathédrale de Notre-Dame, which contains the tomb of Pope John XII. You get a marvellous view of the Rhône river and the bridge from the Rocher des Doms gardens beside the cathedral. The Petit Palace, once home to archbishops and bishops, is now a museum containing a collection of medieval and Renaissance paintings and sculpture. The Musée Calvet, housed in an 18th century mansion, has a fine collection of paintings and archaeological treasures. In a beautiful 17th century Baroque chapel you will find the Musée Lapidaire, which houses a variety of antiques.

**Nîmes** • An industrial city with some outstanding Roman remains. The Maison Carrée is a Roman temple dating from 1st century AD, which now houses the Musée des Antiques (In Bd. Victor-Hugo. Open daily). At the other end of Bd. Victor-Hugo is the Arènes. Considered one of the world's best preserved amphitheatres, the Arènes is now used for various functions. The Jardin de la Fontaine, at the end of Quai de la Fontaine, is a formal garden designed in the 18th century. At the far end of the garden is the Tour Magne, the city's oldest Roman monument. Climb to the top for a fine view of the city (Open daily, \*A). Nîmes has a number of museums and you can buy a "passport" ticket from the tourist office, which admits you to all the museums and monuments (including the above) and is valid for 3 days.

# Regional Information

## Cévennes, Tarn & Ardèche

This is a region of breathtaking beauty, with impressive rock formations and deep gorges, where rivers have carved channels in the limestone. The unspoilt countryside has green valleys, chestnut tree orchards and pine woods, open heaths and pasture. Little rivers and streams flow through meadows and woods. Quiet villages are hidden on hillsides and there is an abundance of wildlife. This area is as rich in history and cultural heritage as it is in natural beauty. Fine examples of Roman architecture can be seen, for example the magnificent engineering of the Pont du Gard and the amphitheatre at Nîmes. There are medieval remains, superb examples of Romanesque architecture and museums whose exhibits confirm the presence of a culture from prehistory to the present day.

### Eating & Drinking – Regional Specialities

Roquefort cheese, garlic, olive oil and aromatic herbs feature strongly. Other specialities include wild boar stew, hot crayfish mousse, trout and candied chestnuts. Try cassoulet, a hearty stew of beans, flavoured with sausage, pork and mutton and preserved goose, and scented with garlic. Brandade de morue is salt cod pounded to a cream with milk, garlic and olive oil. The local lamb often tastes of the herbs that grow in the sheep pastures. The charcuterie is generally excellent and for the sweet-toothed there are plenty of delicious pastries, tarts, cakes and fruit. To wash it all down there is a wide selection of wine from the Côtes du Rhône and Languedoc and Roussillon. There are also liqueurs made with chestnuts, raspberries, blackberries, blueberries, peaches and pear-brandly.

### Things to do and see

\*A • an admission charge is payable for these attractions

## Family Fun

### Leisure Parks and Gardens

**Amazonia** • An adventure park for Indiana Jones wannabees. Set in jungle scenery, this adventure park has rides and slides, canoes, a labyrinth, theatre and more. A great day out for 4-12 year-olds. Roquemaure, just south of Orange (open daily, \*A).

**La Bambouseraie** • Spectacular gardens with more than 150 varieties of bamboo, as well as sequoias, banana trees and many rare plants. In Anduzes (\*A).

### Wildlife Attractions

**La Ferme aux Crocodiles** • Children will enjoy a visit to this crocodile farm - a good trip for a rainy day. Pierrelatte, south of Montélimar, 10 mins from the A7 (open daily, \*A).

**Parc Zoologique de Lunaret** • A beautiful zoo where you can enjoy seeing animals in natural surroundings. There is an ecological discovery trail and a bird sanctuary. In Montpellier (open daily).

### Natural Beauty

**Parc National des Cévennes** • Of the seven French National Parks this is the largest and has an extensive range of wildlife and flora. The rich plant life supports a huge variety of insects with some spectacular grasshoppers, crickets and swallowtail butterflies. Bird life includes hoopoes, crag martins, buzzards and short-toed eagles. You may also spot golden eagles, black kites and peregrines. Griffon vultures have recently been re-established in this area.

### Museums

**Zoo Préhistorique** • At the Aven Grotte Marzal, you can visit the cave and this prehistoric exhibition. See



life-size models of prehistoric animals and human models showing development from 180 million years ago to the present day. On the D201 between Sainte-Reméze and Bidon. Tel: 04 75 04 12 45 (\*A).

**Musée de Bonbon-Haribo** • The museum is located in a building that is part of the old "Zan" liquorice plant at the Pont-des-Charrettes (on the road to Avignon). The visit is a magical moment for children, while at the same time reviving childhood memories for their parents. During your visit you'll learn how the sweets are made, see old-time advertisements, drawings and films, and enjoy the scents and flavours of the different candies made in the adjoining factory. There is parking close to the museum.

### Caves

**La Grotte Cocalière** • near St-Ambroix is one of the largest caves in the Cévennes, where the Camisards (18th century peasants who fought for the right to freedom of worship) took refuge (open daily, \*A).

**Grotte des Demoiselles** • You are transported into the cave on a funicular railway to see the enormous cave with its magnificent formations in Saint-Bauzille-de-Putois. On the D986 south of Ganges (open daily).

**Aven Grotte de Marzal** • Near Saint-Remeze, known for the colour and variety of its stalactites and stalagmites.

## Places of Interest

**Orange** • A small town with a superb Roman theatre. Dating from the 1st century BC, the Théâtre Antique is the best preserved classical theatre in existence. It is noted for its acoustics and classical plays are still performed here on a regular basis. The Arc de Triomphe, at the north entrance of the town, was built to honour the conquering legions of Caesar around 25 AD. At the Parc de la Colline St-Eutrope,

**Arles** • This small city is worth a visit to see the many ancient Roman ruins. The well-preserved amphitheatre hosts bullfights in the summer. Nearby

is the Théâtre Antique, built during the reign of the Emperor Augustus. Parts of the baths of Constantine survive, near the river. The city was home to Vincent van Gogh for a time. The café featured in his painting 'The Café Terrace on the Place du Forum, Arles, at Night' is still much as it was when he painted it in 1888.

**Beziers** • A lively city and the commercial centre for the region's wine trade. The Cathédrale St-Nazaire dates from the 13th and 14th centuries. Built on a hilltop, it is on the site of the original cathedral that was burnt down in 1209, with around 20,000 inhabitants locked inside

**Alès** • This bustling town is the nearest large town to the campsite. In the past this was a centre for mining, although most of the mines have now closed there is a museum you can visit tracing the history of mining and the miners.

**Aix en provence** • Called the Paris of the south, a chic and cultured city. Louis II of Anjou founded the university there in 1409. The city is also known for its beautiful and plentiful fountains. At the western end of the main street, the Cours Mirabeau, is the Fontaine de la Ronde, an immense cast iron fountain built in 1860. The Old Town (north of the city) has an excellent market on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

*Every effort has been made to ensure the information contained within this guide, to the best of our knowledge, is both helpful and correct at time of going to press (March 2010). Canvas Holidays cannot accept responsibility for inaccuracies contained herein.*