

## **SWCC 75th Anniversary Camp 2021: The Ardèche**

Between the **31<sup>st</sup> July and 14<sup>th</sup> August 2021**, SWCC is heading to the Ardèche! There we shall celebrate the club's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, do lots of caving (and other exciting outdoor activities), and generally have a brilliant time. Although it might be difficult to think as far ahead as Summer 2021, with all the strangeness and difficulty that 2020 has brought so far, we need to start making plans. There are two things I need to know at this point:

1. Are you planning on joining us on what is going to be the best club trip ever?
2. If so, do you intend on camping, or might you be interested in more palatial accommodation?



### **Caving in the Ardèche**

So first up, what caving is available in the area? As many of our members who have visited the area can tell you, there are loads of great caving trips on offer! The caves are generally very well decorated, and getting underground will be the perfect way to escape the heat (while still being pleasantly warm)!

#### *Aven de Noël*

This cave is among the "classics" of the region. It is renowned for the awesome abseil entrance (a wall is lost at each rebelay), its sizable galleries, chambers and its varied formations (stals, gypsum flowers, helictites etc...), which are still in excellent condition thanks to a booking system.

<http://www.arspan.fr/index.php?page=aven-de-noel>

#### *Grotte de St Marcel*

Part of this cave is a show cave; this itself is worthwhile - especially the sound and light show on the famous gour pools. This extensive system has close to 50km of surveyed passage, and offers a number of extensive trips, including the classic through trip from the Aven Despeysse.

<https://welshrandomadventures.blogspot.com/2012/08/ardeche-caving-part1-grotte-de-st-marcel.html>

#### *The Event de Peyrejal*

The Event de Peyrejal is part of an extensive system linked via long sections of submerged cave. Trips can be made into this middle part of the system via a blasted entrance. From the base of a series of pitches you can explore a fine series of phreatic passages, some not unlike DYO's Bakerloo Straight.

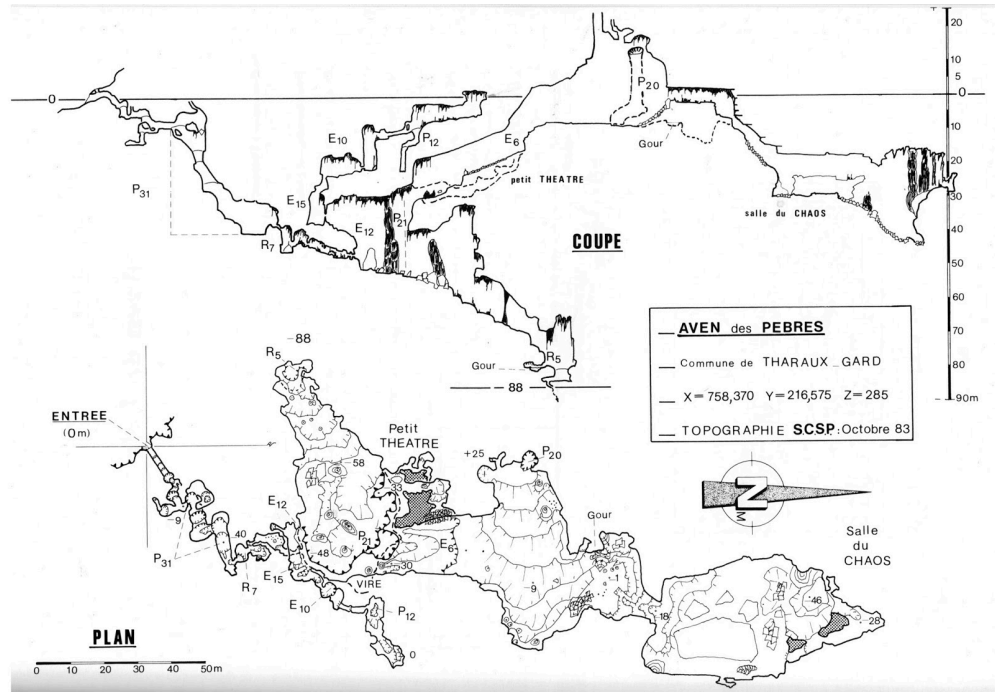
<https://welshrandomadventures.blogspot.com/2012/09/ardeche-caving-part2-exploring-peyrejal.html>

## Aven des Pebres

A fine caving excursion with walk to the entrance of 10 minutes.

A translated description of the cave reads: **The entrance is at the foot of a small cliff by a well-threaded low corridor leading to the top of a 31-meter well. This well is in fact a succession of small inclined notches. At the bottom of it, go up a flow and cross a low passage then a jump of 7 meters. A few more low passages and then we enter the great room. This room is only a vast corridor plunging from -55 to -88 m. This room is**

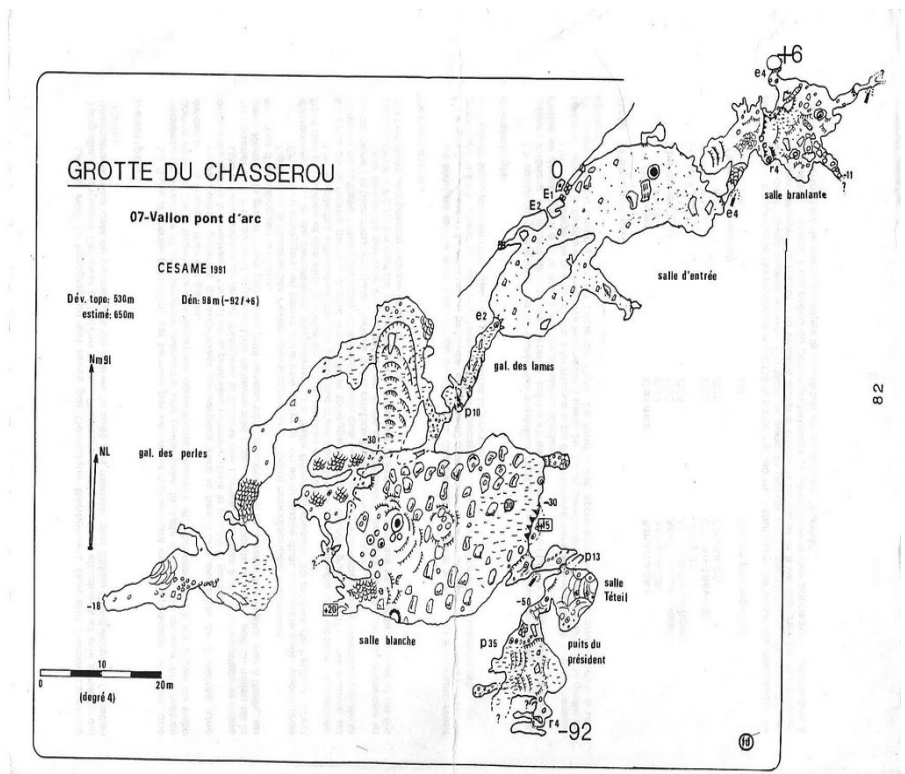
**remarkable for its volume, the presence of large stalagmitic pillars and the powerful flows. Starting from the large hall, a 12-meter climb leads to a balcony overlooking it. From this point, two possibilities: either continue to climb the ascending step (E15 + E10) passing through a succession of small concrete rooms which bring us back to the zero point, or go down a small notch then go up and cross a ledge overlooking the large one. room. We are then at the beginning of a large upper network which begins with a scree. After climbing 6 meters, the network becomes chaotic. It ends with a last room where there is a strong concretion in part N. On the way back, the turn can be avoided by placing an abseil for a direct descent into the room.**



## Grotte du Chasserou

The Chasserou cave is located on the hill that bears its name (also called "Colline d'Arduc").

The entrance has revealed traces of human occupation dating back to prehistoric times, and well-decorated chambers were found beyond this in 1988. Later, during new explorations, other parts, including the 'White Room' have been revealed. Due to its remarkable state of conservation, a visit to the cave requires care.



## *Aven de la Buse*

The entrance is in a drain next to a road, having been discovered during recent road-widening! After a challenging entrance, the cave is extremely well decorated with helictites up to 50 cm long, a forest of straws, and crystals growing out of the wall everywhere!

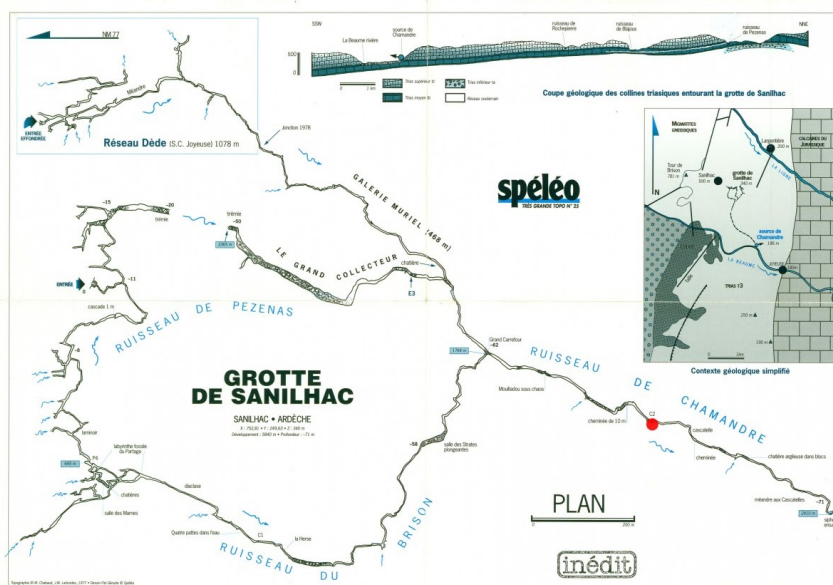
## *Traversée Rochas - Midroï*

Superb through trip or as in and return trips at each end.

<https://welshrandomadventures.blogspot.com/2012/09/ardeche-caving-part-3-traversee-rochas.html>

## *Grotte de Pezenas (Sanilhac)*

The Pezenas cave (Sanilhac) is an important speleological network consisting of 15 km of galleries under the cover of Upper Triassic sandstone between the rivers La Ligne and La Beaume.



## *Reseau Estevan / Barbette*

The Estevan / Barbette system is a sporting through-trip near Montclus. A short abseil into the shallow Estevan leads to well-decorated chambers interspersed with tree roots, and ultimately the connection with Barbette, a cave with a more open and active character. The damp and flat-out 'laminoire' forms a challenging obstacle for the larger caver doing the circuit!



## More Palatial Options:

### *Group Accommodation*

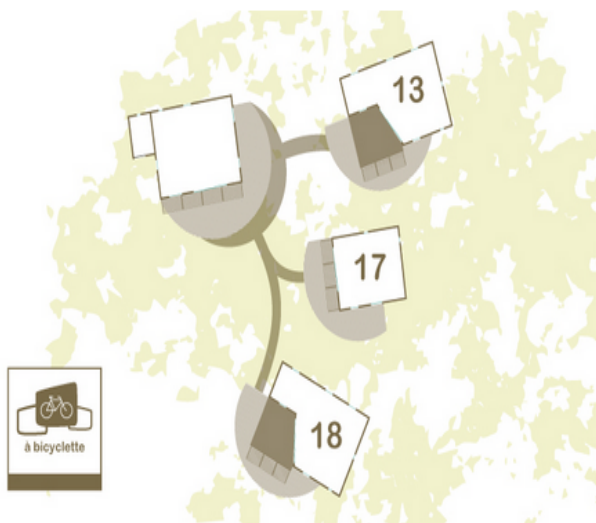
There are two small “Hameau Partage” on the site. Each shared village consists of a small group of timber chalets. Each village has a communal dining chalet and three or four dormitory chalets. The dormitory chalets can be booked individually, or they can be booked en-mass as “Group Accommodation”. A group of 10 to 13 people can book the accommodation. The cost for 14 nights for the Group Accommodation next August is about €5250 for 14 nights. That works out at around €29 per person per night if split 13 ways and about €38 per night if split 10 ways.

The group accommodation would work well if there are 10 - 13 people who would like to share a communal dining area each day. There is a chance that the focus of the camp would be centred here, as there are a good number of camping pitches dotted around the group accommodation.

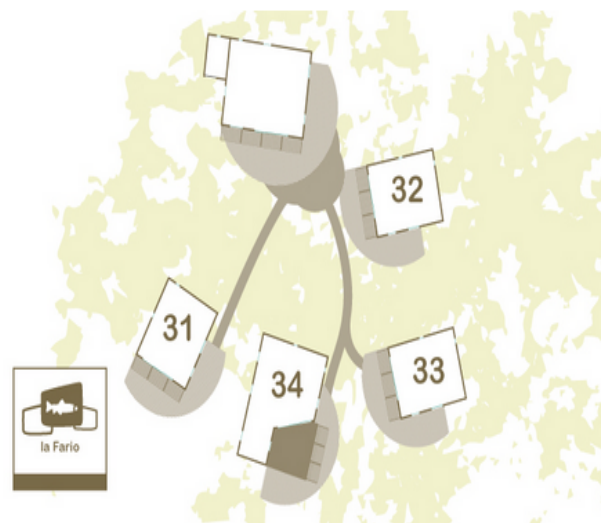
## Comfortable guest suites and a shared experience

Our two shared hamlets are called *À bicyclette* and *La Fario*. Each has 5 bedrooms divided into independent accommodation suites, plus a large living area where everyone can come together for meals.

### Description of our shared hamlets



À bicyclette : 13 and 18 are family suites, 17 is a duo suite.



La Fario : 34 is a family suite, the others are duo suites.



## See our prices



### Duo suites

#### 4 **Duo suites** of 24 m<sup>2</sup> for 2/3 people

1 bedroom, small living-room, patio

- 2 single beds (80) which can be pushed together to form a double bed,
- small living-room with fold-down single bed (90)
- plus kitchen area with kettle and fridge,
- shower room, WC.

### Family suites

#### 3 **family suites** of 32 m<sup>2</sup> for 4/5 people

2 bedrooms, small living-room, patio

- 2 x 2 single beds (80) which can be pushed together to form a double bed
- small living-room with fold-down single bed (90)
- plus kitchen area with kettle and fridge,
- shower room, WC.

### Communal living room of our shared hamlets

#### 2 living rooms of 35 m<sup>2</sup> for 10/12 people



- Fully furnished kitchen
- Living-room with sofa, table with 10 chairs, and a wood-burner
- Utility room with washing-machine
- Terrace with garden table and 10 chairs



## Four and six-person canvas bungalow

The anticipated cost for a four-person canvas bungalow next August is about €1500 for 14 nights. That works out at around €27 per person per night. The anticipated cost for a six-person canvas bungalow next August is about €1700 for 14 nights. That works out at around €21 per person per night. If my maths is correct, there isn't much difference between this option and two people camping on an emplacement.

### 4-person canvas bungalow



**Description form**



- General information
  - Size
- Bedrooms & Bedding
  - separate bedrooms : 2
- Outdoor equipment
  - Terrace

**Features**

- Total Size (sqm) : 25
- separate bedrooms : 2
- Terrace : 1

Our special offers

### 6-person canvas bungalow



**Description form**

- General information
  - Size
- Bedrooms & Bedding
  - separate bedrooms : 2

**Features**

- Total Size (sqm) : 24
- separate bedrooms : 2

Our special offers



## *Holiday Homes*

There are a number of Holiday Homes on the site. These vary in floor area and the number of people accommodated. La Sautadou accommodates six in 35sqm. 14 nights next August will cost about €2800, which if split six ways would work out at around €35 per person per night. If split four ways the cost would be closer to €50 per person per night. Fleur de Lavande accommodates four. It has a floor area of 30 sqm. 14 nights next August will cost around £2300, which split four ways would be about €40 per person per night.

Holiday Home Le Sautadou



Holiday Home Fleur de Lavande





## Next Steps

Go and have a look at the website [here](#).

Once you have had a browse, send [me](#) an email so I can get a picture of numbers and the types of accommodation people are interested in. We need to know numbers of people who are likely to attend – so if you haven't quite made up your mind, it's worth letting us know that you are thinking about it!

We are led to believe that there is no deposit required for camping, but there will almost certainly be a deposit for the other types of accommodation.

We understand that bookings can be made at the end of October / early November. Non-flying holidays are likely to be very popular next summer! We don't want any club member who is intending to join the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary camp to miss out on booking their space.