

# Transgardon en Cévennes

# Chambres d'hôtes & sites de charme



## Getting to know us...

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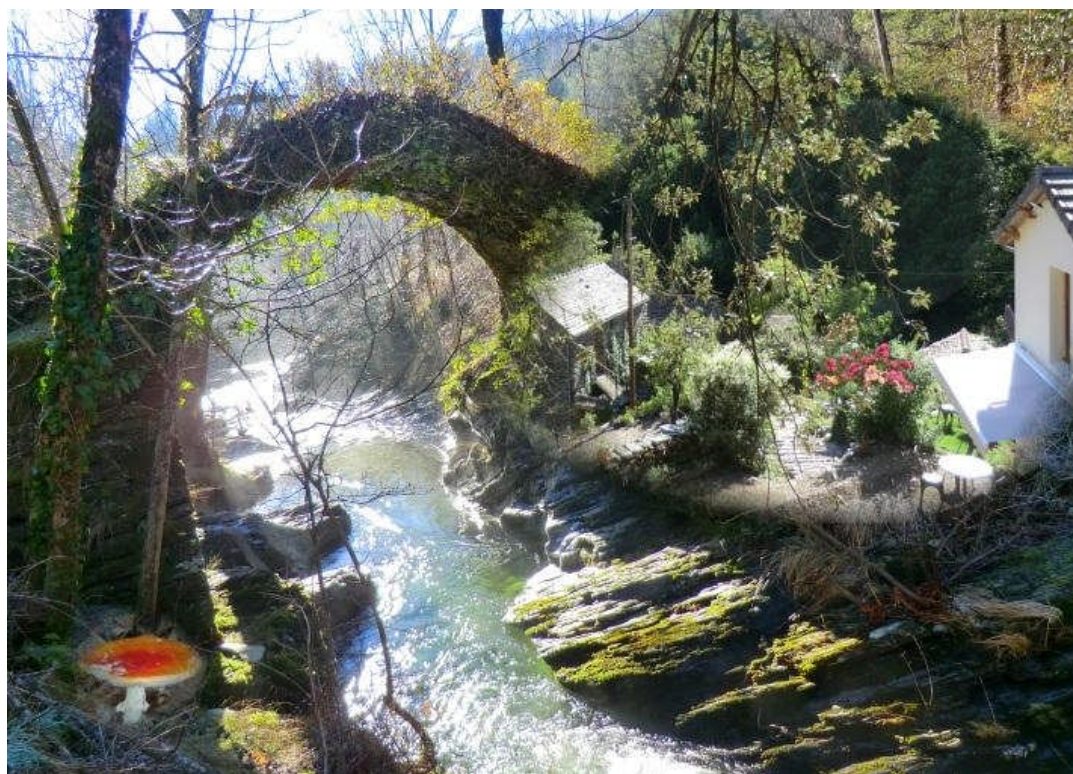
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#### Our partners



### Guest-rooms of Transgardon in Cévennes

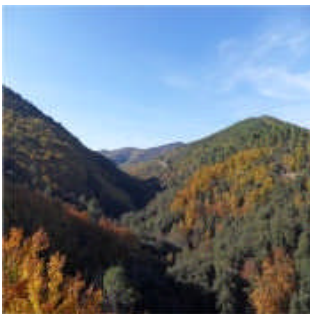
Once upon a time in Cévennes, a natural sanctuary with little knowledge of our busy town life, there was a sunny valley where 2 rivers flowed together.

Once upon a time there was Transgardon, a hamlet with old houses, a place where Time moved at its own pace.

Once upon a time there was that special day when you discovered Transgardon.

### The following have already discovered our hidden retreat:

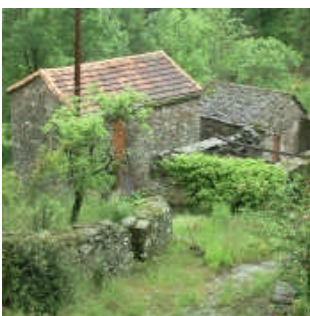




Discover the hamlet of *Transgardon*, nestled in the mountains of the South of France in the Cevennes National Park between Languedoc-Roussillon and Auvergne



*Transgardon*, sheltered in a pleasant cirque, hosts two streamlets (*Gardons*) which flow together and fertilize the soil of *Transgardon*.



Several families used to dwell in the ancient stone houses of the hamlet, where they lived off the land. However, the extinction of an entire generation of the peasantry meant that Nature once again seized possession of the country side.



Some of these old houses, called *Mas Cevenol*, survived the rape of time and then one day were rediscovered by the two of us. As true friends of Nature, we were completely mesmerized by the startlingly beautiful site and knew we had found our very own Paradise.

However, before we could share this treasure with you, we needed several months to bring it up to standard. As of 15th August 2011 *Transgardon* has been eagerly awaiting your visit.

What can you do in *Transgardon*?

Well, you can go for a swim, stroll along the banks of the rivulet, discover the charm of the woods, its flowers and animals. Or enjoy the supreme luxury of doing nothing at all.

Allow yourself the time you don't have otherwise.

And, above all, leave behind the noise and stress of city life.



If you want to venture beyond our estate, you can also:

- go for a hike on one of our numerous walking tracks in the *Cevennes*, the *Causses*, the *Gorges du Tarn*...
- discover places of natural beauty and visit picturesque villages in one of the loveliest regions of France

**To learn more and nourish your dreams of Cévennes...**

Website for „Pays Cévennes“: <http://www.cevennes-tourisme.fr>

Some 13 tourist offices in the neighbouring parishes have formed a type of joint venture to provide this website in order to offer you a multitude of information and photos.

Website of Tourist Office in Florac: <http://www.vacances-cevennes.com>

Here you will find useful details about the nearby Tarn Gorges and the Causses Plateau as well as facts about local activities, festivals, and unique places to be discovered.

Website for „Mont Lozère“: <http://www.cevennes-montlozere.com>

If you require more detailed information you may very well find it here.

## **Guest-rooms in Cévennes - Rooms full of charm in Transgardon**

Our guest-rooms are situated in a separate house looking down on the streamlet with a natural pool under the centuries-old picturesque bridge.

In this stone house, typical for the region, we have our 3 guest-rooms on 3 floors, each with its own separate entrance.



**The bridge at the entrance to the „Chambre Haute”**

It took much loving care to convert a typical croft house into our 3 guest-rooms „La Chambre Haute”, “La Chambre Guetali” and „La Chambre Voûtée”, using traditional materials, thereby combining the charm of days long gone age with the comforts of our modern age.

Outdoors you can also enjoy a quiet rest in the garden in the shade of trees or old walls..

Or if you prefer it less comfortable you can perhaps choose a moss-covered rock on the banks of the rivulet or an old tree-trunk to indulge in your life of doing sweet nothing.

If you can resist the temptation of walking down to the streamlet, the sound of its flowing will still rock you to sleep at night.

### **Your breakfast**



Whether you are up with the lark or you take advantage of a long lie-in, your breakfast will prove a real treat: plentiful and especially prepared according to a sacred rite established by Frédérique for you.

## „La Chambre Haute“



To guarantee a comfortable sojourn the „Chambre Haute“ possesses

- furnishings of much character
- a large comfortable bed (160 x 200 cm) which can also be easily transformed into two twin beds. As a supplement, we have added a mezzanine bed for one adult or two children, equipped with futons and tatami mats.
- a small sitting room
- a meticulously designed bathroom with all facilities (spacious shower, hair-dryer....)

For your wellbeing and that of our planet the reconstruction of the „Chambre Haute“ was carried out in the main with biological materials: plaster made of a mixture of lime and hemp; the roof was insulated with hemp; biological paint and glazes free of any toxic emanation were used. The materials and techniques employed are based on the traditional know-how of the Cévennes for the comfort of our guests.

### **Our Guest-room in Cévennes nowadays, our living space as it was and in days of yore...**

When you see the „Chambre Haute“ today you will require no end of imagination to know how it looked originally. This is not only due to the renovations we have made: the age of the building (several centuries old) and the multiple purposes for which it was used during the ages must likewise be considered. Originally it must have been used as living quarters as traces of an old fireplace were discovered; furthermore, it served as a storage shed for agricultural appliances and finally it was used to store chestnuts.

When first we turned the enormous key in the old rusty lock the door squeaked on opening and we were confronted by what looked like something from a museum: a pile of old furniture, all sorts of utensils, old worm-eaten chests (without any treasure), planks, tools and other testimonies of a past that can no longer be restored... and all of this carefully enveloped in spider's webs of every conceivable design and age.

How on earth could we renovate this without destroying the spirit of the room? Little by little the idea grew in our heads that it would be essential to preserve the volume and visible framework, keep the original size of the doors and windows and use the corners in the walls for decorative purposes. And that was that.

## „La Chambre Guetali“



To guarantee a comfortable sojourn the „Chambre Haute“ possesses

- furnishings of much character
- a large comfortable bed (160 x 200 cm) which can also be easily transformed into two twin beds.
- a small sitting room
- a travertine-tiled bathroom with all facilities (spacious shower, hair-dryer....)
- cork flooring

At the front door a small elevated terrace looks out onto the meadow and the old bridge of Transgardon.

**Our guest-room of today was where our ancestors once lived.**

Without doubt the "Chambre Guetali" was formerly used as a living-room as is clearly indicated by the baking oven and the huge fireplace and chimney beam.

On the ceiling the chestnut beams, blackened by decades of smoke, have now acquired the hue of golden bread thanks to tireless scrubbing with steel wool and a steel brush. Part of the floor, partially tiled, rests on the vault of the room below which is now the "Chambre Voûtée".

A word on the side: some time we were unable to enter this room! Why ever not? Simply because we had no key... mislaid by the former owners. So we could not explore the room until the day our friend Marian came to our assistance and we cut a hole in the ceiling from below. Thus we finally encountered the traces of our ancestors covered in layers of dust and spider's webs.

## „La Chambre Voûtée“



### Authenticity...

With its beautiful stone vaulting masoned long, long ago, the „Chambre Voûtée“ is a testimony to the artistic skill of days gone by and for this reason we simply had to keep its original character.

The bathroom offers you every modern convenience paired with the simplicity of earlier ages. The only concession is the coloured tiles on the wall which offer a playful contrast.

### Today's guest-room in Cévennes was once a wine cave or a water-mill...

You will no doubt have already guessed: the “Chambre Voûtée” had all the attributes to shelter and keep the wine barrels cool. We even found vestiges of the last harvest of some 30 years ago.

And that's not all! Would you have imagined that this ancient building once served as a water-mill? This was confirmed to us by some old-timers in the region. The drainage guttering along the top and down the side of the building substantiates this.

## Bed & Breakfast prices

Twin/Double *en suite* room:

€ 110\* per night,

(4 nights or more : € 100 per night)

For single occupancy : € 90 per night

Our prices include a delicious and varied breakfast with local homemade and fresh produce from the region.

\* Prices are inclusive of visitor's tax

*Access to your room is from 4:30pm*

*And check-out time is by 11:00am*

*All our rooms are non-smoking*

Extra guest by prior arrangement: €25 per night. Please contact us for details.

No charge for children under 5 years of age.

## Catering

Frederique will serve dinner at the family home and will mainly provide seasonal organic produce from the region.

Price: € 28 per person

You will always have the choice between having dinner in our dining room or on the terrace with a view of the Transgardon valley in either case.

## Reservation and payment

- Possible by phone call or e-mail, along with an order form and an upfront payment of 25% at the time of booking
  - To download the order form from our website, please [click here](#)
  - Payment possible by cash, cheque, bank transfer or via Paypal
- WE DON'T ACCEPT CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS**

Frédérique and Pascal Mathis  
Transgardon

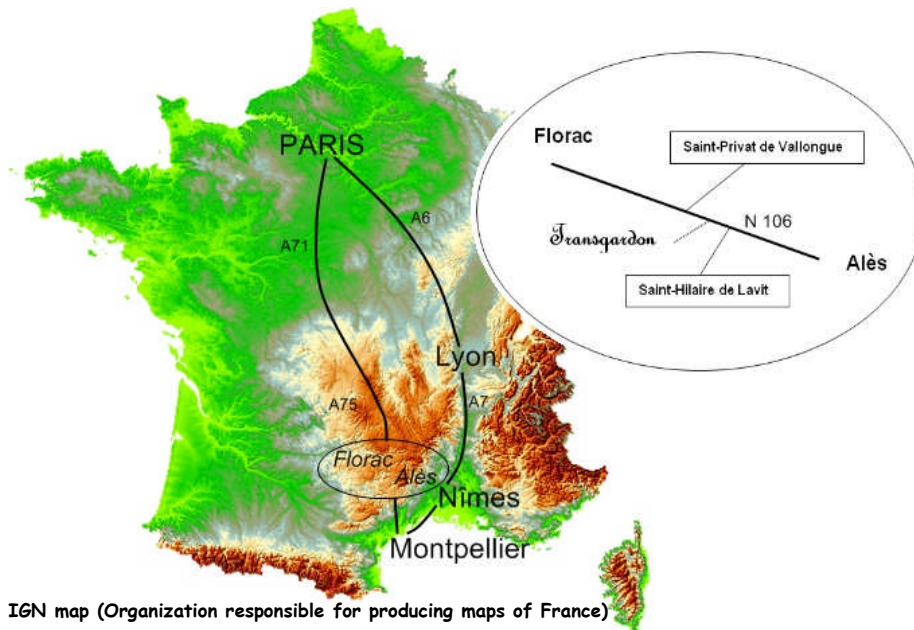
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IGN map (Organization responsible for producing maps of France)

**Transgardon is located in the Southern part of the Cevennes, between two cities called Alès and Florac.**

Motorway access: A7 towards South, exit "Nîmes Ouest"

#### Driving directions

Coming from Florac on the N106 road (30 km): 2 km after *Saint-Privat de Vallongue* intersection, you will find a parking lot on your right.

Coming from Alès on the N106 road (40 km): 3 km after *Saint-Hilaire de Lavit* intersection, you will find a parking lot on your left.

**(Stay on the N106 road, do not take the roads to the small towns of *Saint-Privat* and *Saint-Hilaire*. They are mentioned just as markers)**



When you see the sign *Transgardon* on the top of a mailbox, it means that you have found the parking lot!

20 meters below is the bend, where a track dug into schist rocks begins. This track leads to the hamlet (1 km long).

In any case, we strongly advise you first to stop at the parking lot, get out of the car and look for the entrance to the track before driving in. It is completely suitable and safe for motor vehicles even if it might seem a bit intimidating if it is your first visit to the Cevennes.

#### **Transgardon GPS coordinates (according to géoportail)**

- Start of the trip on the N106 road: Longitude 03°51' 11" Latitude 44° 16' 17"
- The hamlet: Longitude 03°51'26" Latitude 44°16'05"

Recently, some GPS have even been able to localize *Transgardon*! (Add 48240 zip code)

You will soon realize that we, Frédérique and Pascal Mathis, as your hosts do not originate from the Cevennes but from the North of France. However, we lived for 20 years on the French island of Réunion before *Transgardon* gave us a new lease of life. Nevertheless part of our hearts and souls remain there, so don't be surprised if at times we gaze into the distance for beyond the mountains and ocean to the valley of Maïdo or Mafate in Réunion.

Welcome to our friends from Reunion!



Entrance to the Mafate Cirque, a hiker's heaven



Saint-Gilles les bains



Nature in all its aspects fascinate us, but we have a particular faible for bees at Transgardon and apiculture is a major part of our lives.

If you want to share this passion with us, do not hesitate to ask questions! It would be a pleasure for us to talk to you on the subject.

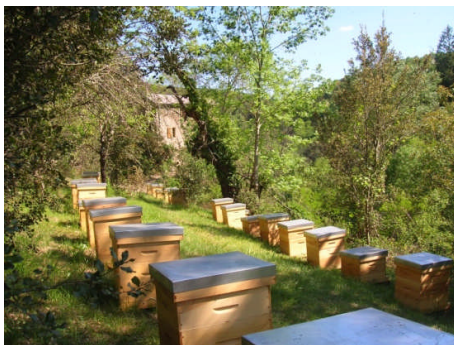
You are welcome to take a walk to the bee yard if you want to get to know these delightful creatures better (of course, you will need to be accompanied).

However, do not worry if you are not a fan of biting or stinging insects. They know how to keep their distance and like flowers much more than humans... so no worries, you can also spend your entire stay without seeing any of them.

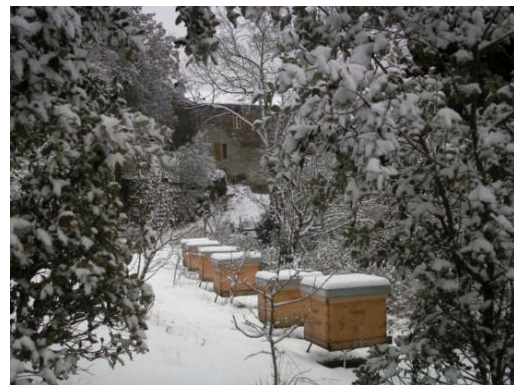
Our favorite: the beehive in Frédérique's kitchen garden



Matthieu, a young beekeeper's apprentice, holding a honeycomb



The bee yard in spring



Shhh!!! They are sleeping. It's winter at *Transgardon*