Valence / La Voulte-sur-Rhône / Le Pouzin
ViaRhôna

After a halt at Valence's southern river port of L'Epervière, ViaRhôna leads you back onto the western, Ardèche bank of the Rhône. The Ardèche is known for its exceptional caves, archaeological sites, characterful villages, châteaux and nature reserves. From La Voulte-sur-Rhône, you can discover rugged central Ardèche by taking the Dolce Via route up the Eyrieux Valley. Continuing south along ViaRhôna, cross the Printegarde Nature Reserve to reach Le Pouzin after another short trip across the Rhône into the Drôme.

The route

Leave Valence on a well-laid-out, well-signposted greenway. South past the port of L'Epervière, cross the Rhône via the Pont des Lônes bridge. You then alternate between stretches of greenway and shared roads with very light traffic to head on via Soyons, Charmes-sur-Rhône and Beauchastel to La Voulte-sur-Rhône. Cross the bridge over the Rhône here, then turn right immediately to take a section of shared road for 3km before enjoying a further 3km of greenway up to Le Pouzin.

Links

Link to Saulce-sur-Rhône possible via the D 204 road. It's possible to link up with the cycling-friendly Dolce Via route, going from La Voulte-sur-Rhône to Le Cheylard, Intres and/or Lamastre through Les Nonières. On the east bank of the Rhône, you can link onto the Drôme Valley Greenway (Voie Verte de la Vallée de la Drôme) from Livron-sur-Drôme to Allex.

Railway stations (SNCF):

Valence railway station, city center – TER (local services):
- Line 5: Lyon > Valence > Marseille
- Line 2: Geneva / Annecy > Grenoble > Valence
- Line 61: Grenoble > Valence

Valence high speed railway station (15km from city center):
- Line 70: Romans > Valence TGV > Valence
- Line TGV Paris > Lyon Valence TGV > Avignon > Aix-en-Provence

Livron railway station:
- line 5: Lyon > Vienne > Valence > Livron > Marseille

Loriol railway station:
- line 5: Lyon > Vienne > Valence > Loriol > Marseille

Tourist Information Centres:
- Valence Tourist Office Ph. 04 75 44 90 40
- Loriol-sur-Drôme Tourist Office Ph. 04 75 61 36 12
Don’t miss:

Valence: a Ville d’Art et d’Histoire, due to its dense cultural legacy; Anne-Sophie Pic’s gastronomic restaurant, awarded 3 Michelin stars and including a cookery school, Scook; the network of canals, extending over 16km, encouraging fishing and gardening.

Port de l’Epervière: this Rhône-side port just south of Valence has excellent leisure facilities and dramatic views.

Beauchastel: listed as a ‘village de caractère’, with a château and Maison du patrimoine (focusing on local heritage).

La Voulte-sur-Rhône: with a paleontology museum, a château and a princely chapel, plus its church of St Vincent.

La Dolce Via: this is a 45km-long greenway set up along the Eyrieux Valley, following a disused railway line. It links La Voulte-sur-Rhône to Le Cheylard in the Ardèche hills.

Charmes-sur-Rhône: for its historic village.

Markets:

Valence: every day except Sunday
Porte-Lès-Valence: Thursday morning
Beauchastel: Tuesday morning
Saint-Peray: Wednesday morning
La-Voulte-sur-Rhône: Friday morning
Livron: Tuesday morning
Loriol: Monday morning