

WhatToDoWhen



Bathing in

a river or a lake?



CONSULT OUR MAP



Preamble

You often ask us the question: "Where can I swim near the hotel? Now you have the answer with this new issue of WhaToDoWhen. No need to go to the often crowded and more distant beaches of the Mediterranean.

Here you can find lakes and rivers, 22 places to swim. It takes between 30 minutes and 1h10 by car from the hotel.

Every swim is a mini-adventure in itself. You can't invent it. Sometimes it has to be earned. It reconnects you with Mother Nature. It is a change of scenery. Put yourself in the shoes of a local and follow the GPS coordinates of swimming spots, each one as magical as the next. But be careful! Don't give them away too much so that these places remain secret...



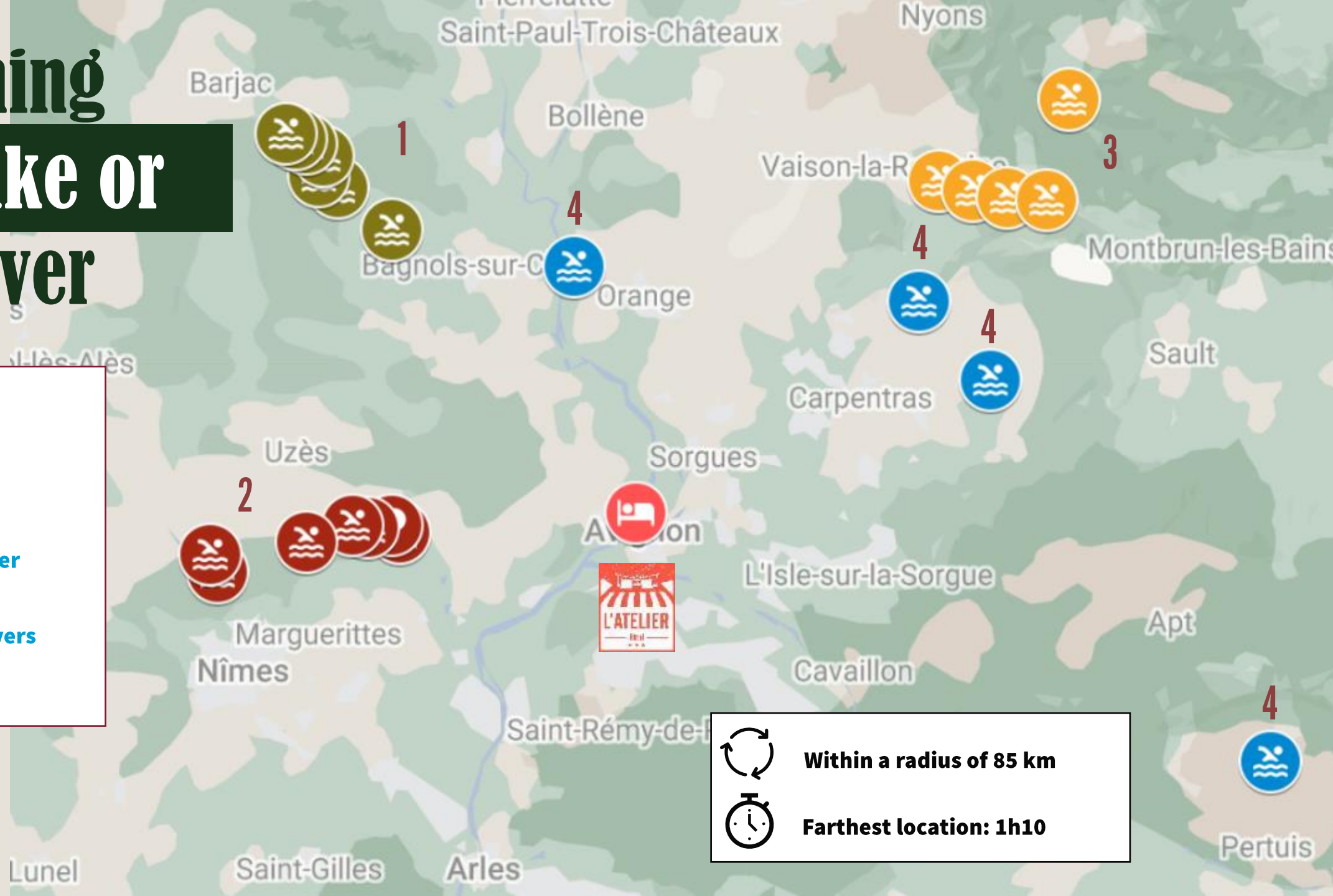
THE HOSE!

Always wear **SHOES** that can go in the water. This will greatly improve your swimming experience, especially when you come into contact with the rocks and pebbles that are omnipresent in rivers.

Bathing in a lake or a River

4 BATHING AREAS

1. The river CEZE
2. The GARDON River
3. The Ouveze and Toulourenc rivers
4. THE LAKES



1



THE CEZE

The Cèze is my favourite river. It is wilder, more wooded, more confidential, more relaxing. It flows peacefully, passing through beautiful villages, from La Roque-sur-Cèze to Montclus, passing through Goudargues and Cornillon. You can also canoe down the river. We propose you here 7 places of bathing to the Top. It's up to you to choose!



1h / 60 km



Saint-Christol-de-Rodières

Saint-Paulet-d

Salazac

Life is a long
quiet **Cèze** ...

Carsan

7 Montclus

Cèze canoe

3

2

Cornillon

Goudargues

Cèze canoe

Saint-Laurent-de-Carnols

Saint-Michel-d'Euzet

La Roque-sur-Cèze

45' / 45 km



7 Swimming in the CEZE

1. Waterfalls of Sautadet
2. Sacred mound of Mount Michelet
3. Small beach on the banks of the Cèze
4. Pont Saint-André-de-Roquepertuis beach
5. Beach in the Montclus drop
6. Beach in front of the village of Montclus
7. Mareou Beach



1. Waterfalls of Sautadet

A must for natural bathing in our region. Beware, swimming is dangerous at the waterfalls, or take all necessary precautions to enjoy a jacuzzi at the foot of the waterfalls. We recommend swimming upstream or downstream.

GPS: 44.1890, 4.5271

2. The sacred mound of Mount Michelet

Follow the Chemin St-Michelet, then the Chemin du Barquet to the end, even when it turns into a dirt track (high grass depending on the season). There is room for a few cars. A wild place on a bend of the Cèze, with a beautiful beach.

GPS: 44.2238, 4.4669



3. Small beach on the edge of the Cèze

A secret beach at the end of a path at the edge of a field. The cul-de-sac brings you to a small parking area. Some welcome riprap, jade green water, more or less deep. Enjoy the current before you reach the beach.

GPS: 44.2328, 4.4452



4. Saint-André-de-Roquepertuis Bridge

The beach is easy to find and therefore more frequented. It has many attractions, including the bridge, but also an old mill upstream. After the dam, the water is deeper and allows you to enjoy a view of the cliffs of the Roc de l'Aiguille.

GPS: 44.2482, 4.4485





5. In the Montclus drop

I don't hide the fact that this beach is more difficult to find. So trust the GPS coordinates below. You will also have to walk on a dirt road with rocks. But it's worth the effort, because the reward is there. The place is wild and less crowded.

GPS: 44.2584, 4.4300

6. Facing the village of Montclus

Look out for the Most Beautiful Village in France, Montclus, and enjoy a pleasant swim in front of this magnificent village. Cross the pretty bridge at the entrance to the village to reach the opposite bank. After your swim, a visit to the old village is a must. A small restaurant is also available.

GPS: 44.2621, 4.4193



7. Mareou Beach

Here again, the GPS coordinates will be useful to reach this little paradise. This is my favourite of the Cèze baths. There is not much space to park your car, but you should find a place. Then there is a large pebble beach in a wild corner of the Cèze. This place is magical. Disconnection is guaranteed. To get a bit more background, you may have to walk away from the beach, but that adds to the adventure. I highly recommend bringing a picnic and staying as long as you need.

GPS: 44.2672, 4.4081

2



THE GARDON

The Gardon, 128 km long, is of course known for its famous 2000 year old Roman Bridge. We suggest you take 6 refreshing swims, to be combined with some unmissable visits, such as the Pont-du-Gard or the Maison des Gorges du Gardon. From Collias, it is possible to canoe down these beautiful gorges, deep in places.

6 Swimming in the GARDON

1. Bathing at the Pont-du-Gard (+ 1 Bis)
2. Beach of the Draille
3. Swimming at the Collias Bridge
4. Swimming at the Baume St-Vérédème
5. Mas des Charlots
6. Russan Beach



50' / 50 km

House of the Gorges du Gardon



6

Sainte-Anastasie

5



Sanilhac-Sagriès



4

Collias

3



2



1a.



Pont-du-Gard



1



Rem

30' / 30 km

Saint-Bonnet-du-Ga



Sernhac

Lédenon

Poulx

Life is a long
quiet Gardon...

Google My Maps



1. Pont du Gard

One of the closest places to L'hôtel de l'Atelier for swimming in the river. And it is not just any place, it is located at the foot of the Pont du Gard. Just that! To get there, 2 solutions:

- You can either park at the Pont du Gard car park (for a fee) and walk for about ten minutes to reach the banks of the Gardon.
- Either you park for free near the bridge (see GPS itinerary bis) and you reach the Gardon by a nice path among the olive trees (count 20 minutes). Follow the Valive path.

GPS: 43.9467, 4.5330

GPS Itinerary bis: 43.9527, 4.5250

2. Beach of the Draille

One of my first swims in the Gardon. There is a holiday feeling about this place, starting with the little path that leads you there. Ideal with children, because there are small islands in the middle of the Gardon, bringing a nice playful side.

GPS: 43.9508, 4.5000



3. Collias Bridge

Who says Gardon, says Collias. First of all because it is the starting point for a canoe trip.... But not only that. Aim for the Pont de Collias, and you will find a lot of small beaches downstream or upstream. There is something for all tastes, from lazing around to more sporting activities (jumping). Be careful, the place is (very) crowded in season.

GPS: 43.9533, 4.4819





5. Mas des Charlots

We are proud to have found this beach, which if you reach it, will be your own private beach. You'll love it! Follow the GPS without question. A dirt road leads you to the abandoned Mas des Charlots. Park the car and take the path along the Mas, leading to the Gardon.

GPS: 43.9153, 4.3304



4. La Baume St-Vérédème

Well known by the locals for Sunday swimming. Beware, this beach must be earned. Whether you go by Sanilhac (see GPS) or by Poulx, it will take you about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour to reach the Baume (2.2 km, yellow markings). The site is magical (caves, cliffs, old mill, etc.).

GPS: 43.9391, 4.4302



6. Swimming at the Russan Bridge

Thanks to the Pont de Russan, you can't miss this large beach, located downstream from the bridge. The road leading to it is rocky but not difficult.

I preferred the end of the beach, more wild. The deepest Gorges are clearly visible on the horizon. No wonder it has become a Mecca for rock climbing (the Castellans viewpoint can be reached from the heights of Russan).

A little tip for fans of the current and the (soft) glide. Start your swim from the middle of the beach, the Gardon will take you effortlessly to the point. Be careful with the small rocks.

GPS: 43.9306, 4.3233

3



The swimming is further away from the Atelier hotel. But it is worth going there for the day. It really feels like a holiday. The two rivers meet at Entrechaux. One of the suggestions is an absolute MUST, with a 6 km long aquatic walk (N°3), between pools and torrents.

Life is a long quiet

Toulourenc Ouvèze ...

5 Swimming in the TOULOURENC and OUVÈZE

1. Bathing at the Roman bridge of Saint-Michel
2. The Old Bridge
3. Swimming in the Toulourenc gorges
4. Roman Bridge
5. Swimming in the Ubrieux Gorges

1h10 / 70 km



Buis-les-Baronnies

La Penne-sur-l'Ouvèze

Pierrelongue

Eygaliers

Mollans-sur-Ouvèze

Vaison-la-Romaine

Saint-Marcellin-lès-Vaison

55' / 55 km

Crestet

Entrechaux

4

St-Léger-du-Ventoux

1

2

3





1. Roman bridge of Saint-Michel

The Ouvèze is wide. A nice bridge allows you to choose your bank, but be careful, don't cross the bridge by car, as I tried to do... By bike, yes, but not by car. It's too narrow. Some small attractions, such as a nice riprap for sunbathing, small waterfalls to enjoy a natural jacuzzi and a small "pool" on the left side formed by the foundations of an old building.

GPS: 44.2288, 5.1364

2. The Old Bridge

To reach the pont-vieux, you have to aim for the car park of the Notre-Dame-des-Anges chapel, by taking the path of the same name. 200 m after the car park, you reach the bridge and you can park your vehicle. This place in the Toulourenc is quiet and restful. And for this reason it is very family friendly. The river flows peacefully, without current, without excess. This is an incentive to go for a water walk up the Toulourenc. These are more of a shallow river bed, but there are some nice pools here and there for you to swim in. I prefer the part upstream from the bridge. If you're looking for a bit of sweetness, this is your place. And why not go to the Chapelle to complete the experience (15 min. both ways)?

GPS: 44.2216, 5.1740





3. Gorges du Toulourenc

More than a swim, it is an aquatic stroll that we offer you here. 6 km of pools, caves, gravel beds, narrow gorges. To be done with shoes, otherwise the pleasure will not be the same. Choose the car park before the hamlet of Veaux or the one on the opposite bank.

GPS: 44.2150, 5.2140

4. Roman Bridge

Easy to find and ideal parking, just before the bridge. It is a magical swimming spot with small waterfalls, flowing into beautiful blue pools. The view on or from the bridge is like a postcard. I enjoyed the swan necks and natural hot tubs of the waterfalls!

GPS: 44.2131, 5.2557



5. Ubrieux Gorges

Also known as Hannibal's Passage (who might have gone through this gorge with his elephants?). The place is spectacular, on the edge of the road. Located 1 km after Buis-les-Baronnies, you can choose the natural pools with rocks and small waterfalls upstream from the bridge (as a reminder, in the direction of the current) or the beautiful pools at the foot of the gorges downstream from the bridge. You will also notice that this is a great place for climbing. Parking is not too difficult, with several possible places along the road.

GPS: 44.2931, 5.2803

4



THE LAKES

4 lakes, 4 atmospheres. 1 leisure lake, 1 fishing lake, 1 ochre lake and 1 Caribbean lake. The atmosphere of a lake is undoubtedly more family-oriented and friendly, often with catering facilities. The downside is that they are sometimes more crowded. The swimming will soon make you forget this and the pleasure of swimming in a natural environment will take over.

Life is a long **quiet Lake**



4 Swimming in the lakes

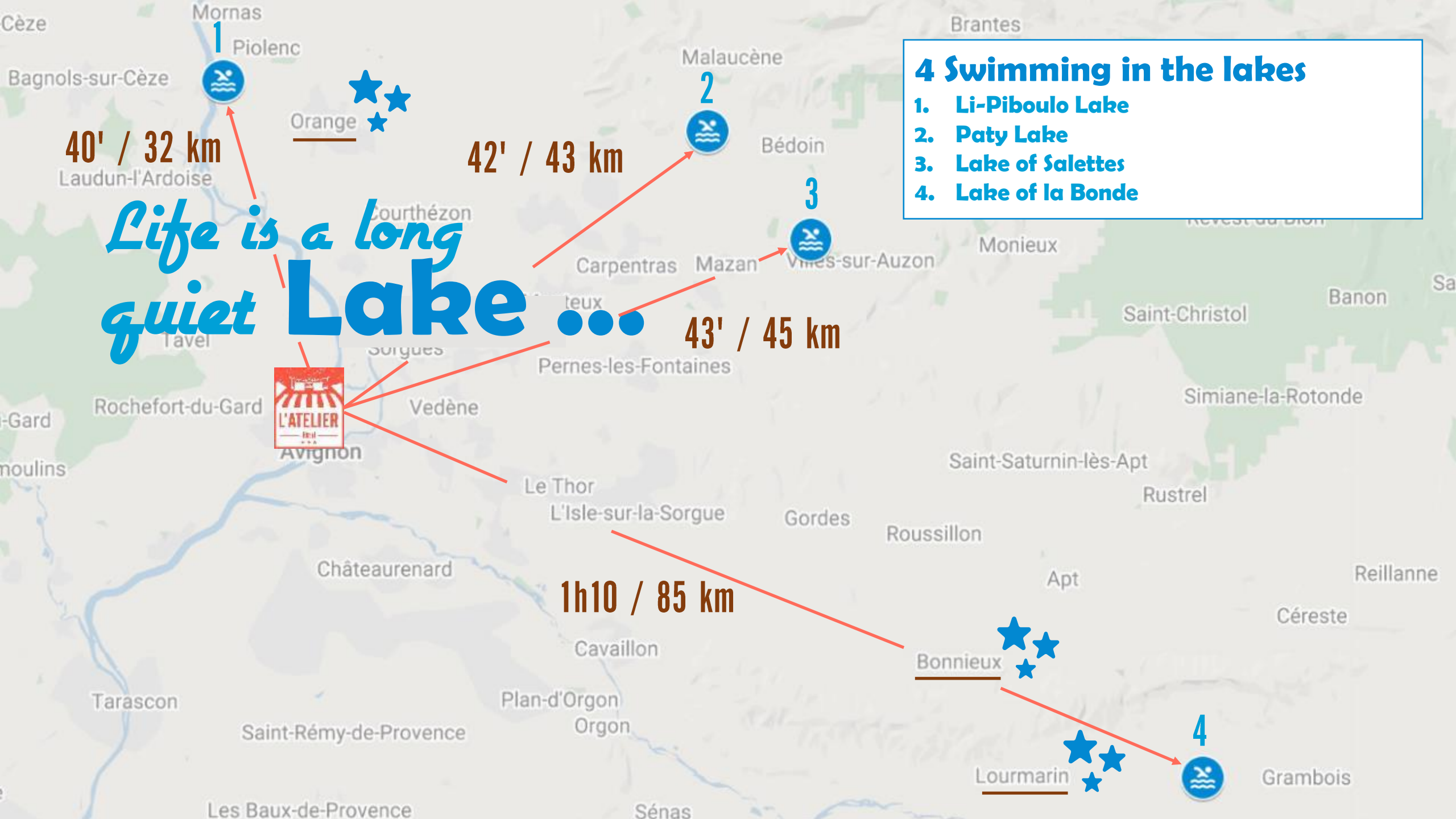
1. Li-Piboulo Lake
2. Paty Lake
3. Lake of Salettes
4. Lake of la Bonde

40' / 32 km

42' / 43 km

43' / 45 km

1h10 / 85 km





1. Li Piboulo Lake

Well, we won't lie to ourselves, it's not the most charming place, and yet this stretch of water has many assets. Sunbathing and swimming are possible, all relatively accessible from the Atelier hotel. You can also relax in nature if you wish.

In reality, you are on the grounds of Wam Park, a new concept in water sports, offering numerous water activities. Paddle, inflatable water games, towed buoys, water skiing, floating terraces, snack bar, etc.

GPS: 44.1621, 4.7289

2. Paty Lake

It is an unpretentious place. People go there to swim, picnic and fish. When it is not so busy, the lake becomes a little piece of paradise.

It is an artificial lake, created by a dam built in the 18th century, in order to feed the mills of Caromb.

Today, we enjoy relaxing, walking around the area (including a tour of the famous haunted manor of "Fantasti Meadow").

A refreshment bar and a petanque court are available to complete the picture of Provence.

GPS: 44.1343, 5.1151





3. Lake of Salettes

It's a good place to live at Lac des Salettes. A landscape of ochreous sands, in yellow or orange tones, gives colour to the site. The Mont Ventoux is always visible. The swimming is very pleasant, clearly family friendly.

A picnic is a good idea but not compulsory, thanks to the restaurant La Cahute, which welcomes you for a meal.

It is also the starting point for numerous hikes for all levels. A Ventoux Aventure tree climbing course allows you to spend a beautiful day with your family, flying over the lake.

GPS: 44.0706, 5.1949

4. Lake of la Bonde

I discovered this pond while hiking from Cabrières d'Aigues, a very cute village at the foot of the Mourre Negre. The hike allows you to pass by a striking viewpoint (see photo below). The lake has a colour worthy of the Caribbean.

We join him in a great hurry to enjoy a well-deserved swim. Depending on the time of year, the number of visitors can be high. Indeed, a campsite adjoins the lake on its western side.

Once in the water, you quickly feel isolated, as the pond is so large. There is room for everyone! A must in Provence.

GPS: 43.7610, 5.5066





PRACTICAL - 22 PLACES FOR A MAGICAL SWIM

Bathing	River / Lake	GPS	Village	
Waterfalls of Sautadet	The Cèze	44.1890, 4.5271	La Roque-Sur-Cèze	45 km / 1 hour from the workshop
Sacred mound of Mount Michelet	The Cèze	44.2238, 4.4669	Goudargues	50 km / 50 min. from the workshop
Small beach on the banks of the Cèze	The Cèze	44.2328, 4.4452	Saint-André-de-Roquepertuis	52 km / 50 min. from l'Atelier
Saint-André-de-Roquepertuis Bridge	The Cèze	44.2482, 4.4485	Saint-André-de-Roquepertuis	53 km / 50 min. from l'Atelier. Departure possible by canoe.
Beach in the Montclus drop	The Cèze	44.2584, 4.4300	Montclus	57 km / 55 min. from l'Atelier
Beach in front of the village of Montclus	The Cèze	44.2621, 4.4193	Montclus	57 km / 56 min. from l'Atelier
Mareou Beach	The Cèze	44.2672, 4.4081	Montclus	59 km / 57 min. from the workshop
Bathing at the Pont-du-Gard (+ 1 Bis)	The Gardon	43.9467, 4.5331	Vers-Pont-du-Gard	28 km / 32 min. from l'Atelier. GPS Bis : 43.9527, 4.5250
Beach of the Draille	The Gardon	43.9508, 4.5000	Vers-Pont-du-Gard	30 km / 32 min. from l'Atelier.
Swimming at the Collias Bridge	The Gardon	43.9533, 4.4819	Collias	33 km / 33 min. from the Atelier.
Swimming at the Baume St-Véredème	The Gardon	43.9391, 4.4302	Sanilhac-Sagriès	51 km / 54 min. from the workshop.
Mas des Charlots	The Gardon	43.9153, 4.3304	Sainte-Anastasie	54 km / 58 min. from the Atelier.
Russan Beach	The Gardon	43.9306, 4.3233	Sainte-Anastasie	50 km / 52 min. from the workshop.
Bathing at the Roman bridge of Saint-Michel	The Ouvèze	44.2288, 5.1364	Entrechaux	56 km / 54 min. from l'Atelier
The Old Bridge	The Toulourenc	44.2216, 5.1740	Mollans-sur-Ouvèze	59 km / 59 min. from the Atelier
The Gorges du Toulourenc	The Toulourenc	44.2150, 5.2140	Mollans-sur-Ouvèze	61 km / 1 hour from the workshop
Roman Bridge	The Toulourenc	44.2131, 5.2557	Saint-Léger-du-Ventoux	69 km / 1h10 from l'Atelier
The Ubrieux Gorge	The Ouvèze	44.2931, 5.2803	Buis-les-Baronnies	72 km / 1h11 from the Atelier
Li-Piboulo Lake	Vaucluse Lake	44.1621, 4.7289	Piolenc	32 km / 39 min. from l'Atelier
Paty Lake	Vaucluse Lake	44.1343, 5.1151	Caromb	43 km / 42 min. from l'Atelier
Lake of Salettes	Vaucluse Lake	44.0706, 5.1949	Mormoiron	45 km / 43 min. from l'Atelier
Lake of la Bonde	Vaucluse Lake	43.7610, 5.5066	La Motte-d'Aigues	85 km / 1h10 from l'Atelier