

## VERNET-LES-BAINS - INFORMATION IN ENGLISH



Vernet-les-Bains is a beautiful mountain village situated at an altitude of 650 metres (about 2,000 feet) in the *Pyrénées-Orientales* (eastern Pyrenees) of France. It is an ideal centre for visitors and holidaymakers.

The village enjoys a wonderful climate (with, on average, 300 days of sunshine each year) and is set in a sheltered valley in the foothills of the Canigou mountain - which rises to a height of 2,785 metres (over 9,000 feet).

Tranquil and restful, Vernet-les-Bains has long been known for its hot water springs. A health centre in the village is located above this source and is specially equipped for the treatment of respiratory and rheumatic conditions.

Here the natural environment is a treasured asset. Officially designated as a "Centre for green tourism", Vernet-les-Bains is also proud to be the first "Village-Arboretum" in France. Over 1,500 trees are located within the village, with some 200 species having been identified and listed.

Vernet-les-Bains is an excellent centre for walkers. There are many possibilities for good walks in the Canigou massif, and in the Cady valley, where the village is located.

There is also a geological museum with a fine collection of specimens, including some remarkable crystals and marine fossils.

And, within close reach of Vernet-les-Bains, there are many other fascinating attractions: Romanesque abbeys, picturesque villages and fortified towns, stunning limestone caverns, the famous "little yellow train", etc...

### Walks

Descriptions of walks around Vernet, including descriptions of walks to the summit of Canigou: [www.walks-vernetlesbains-canigou.eu](http://www.walks-vernetlesbains-canigou.eu).

Thirteen tourist office *fiches rando* (walk description cards) have been translated into English.

They can be downloaded from the following web page:

[www.walks-vernetlesbains-canigou.eu/ot-walks.php](http://www.walks-vernetlesbains-canigou.eu/ot-walks.php).

In each document, the translation in English is followed by the original *fiche rando* in French, which contains a sketch map of the route.

Tourist office information in English on routes to the summit of Canigou:

[www.vernet-dels-banys.eu/vlb\\_english/canigo\\_ot\\_english.pdf](http://www.vernet-dels-banys.eu/vlb_english/canigo_ot_english.pdf)

Information on parking on forest tracks in the Canigou massif (this information mainly concerns the summer period. From mid-October to mid-May, the jeep tracks, from the Col de Jou to Mariailles, from above Fillols to Cortalets, and in the Llech valley, are closed):

[www.vernet-dels-banys.eu/vlb\\_english/parking\\_canigou\\_tracks.pdf](http://www.vernet-dels-banys.eu/vlb_english/parking_canigou_tracks.pdf)

A description in English of a walk around the heart of Vernet, the old village:

[www.vernet-dels-banys.eu/vlb\\_english/stroll\\_old\\_village.pdf](http://www.vernet-dels-banys.eu/vlb_english/stroll_old_village.pdf)

The Kipling Circuit (the *Chemin Kipling*) is a short, self-guided trail around the "Belle Epoque" sector of Vernet-les-Bains, well known to Rudyard Kipling (see below). It was opened in March 2011. It begins outside the tourist office (where information on the circuit can be obtained).

The route of the circuit is marked by a dozen illustrated panels. A translation in English of the panels' texts is here:

[www.vernet-dels-banys.eu/vlb\\_english/kipling\\_circuit.pdf](http://www.vernet-dels-banys.eu/vlb_english/kipling_circuit.pdf)



Kipling enjoyed many walks around Vernet. You can follow some of his footsteps on a short walk called the "Belle Epoque" circuit, which is described here in English:

[http://www.vernet-dels-banys.eu/vlb\\_english/belle\\_epoque\\_walk.pdf](http://www.vernet-dels-banys.eu/vlb_english/belle_epoque_walk.pdf)

## Other information

Vernet-les-Bains: illustrated information leaflet (in French & English):

[www.vernet-dels-banys.eu/vlb\\_english/vlb\\_ot\\_fr\\_eng.pdf](http://www.vernet-dels-banys.eu/vlb_english/vlb_ot_fr_eng.pdf)

Activities in and around Vernet for families with children:

[www.vernet-dels-banys.eu/vlb\\_english/vlb\\_families\\_children.pdf](http://www.vernet-dels-banys.eu/vlb_english/vlb_families_children.pdf)

A description in English of a permanent exhibition at the *Maison du Patrimoine* (the tourist office):

[http://www.vernet-dels-banys.eu/vlb\\_english/heritage\\_expo.pdf](http://www.vernet-dels-banys.eu/vlb_english/heritage_expo.pdf)

Notes on the history of Vernet-les-Bains:

[www.vernet-dels-banys.eu/vlb\\_english/vernet\\_history.pdf](http://www.vernet-dels-banys.eu/vlb_english/vernet_history.pdf)

Street map of Vernet-les-Bains:

<http://cdt66.media.tourinsoft.eu/upload/plan-ville2014web.pdf>

## **Kipling and Vernet-les-Bains**

Rudyard Kipling stayed in Vernet-les-Bains in 1910, 1911 and 1914. He was already well-known in France, following the award to him of the Nobel Prize for Literature and the success of the French version of The Jungle book.

An article by Sam Collett about Kipling's visits to Vernet is available here:

[www.vernet-dels-banys.eu/vlb\\_english/collett\\_kipling.pdf](http://www.vernet-dels-banys.eu/vlb_english/collett_kipling.pdf)

The text of a letter written by Kipling in 1911, in praise of Vernet's mountain, Canigou, can be seen here (it follows a French translation):

[http://www.vernet-dels-banys.eu/vlb\\_english/canigou\\_kipling.pdf](http://www.vernet-dels-banys.eu/vlb_english/canigou_kipling.pdf)

Kipling's short story, "Why snow falls at Vernet", written while he was in the town in 1911, can be seen here (with a French translation):

[www.vernet-dels-banys.eu/vlb\\_english/snow\\_kipling.pdf](http://www.vernet-dels-banys.eu/vlb_english/snow_kipling.pdf)

A description of Vernet in 1911 by the English writer Vincent Scott O'Connor can be seen here (it follows a French translation):

[http://www.vernet-dels-banys.eu/vlb\\_english/oconnor\\_vernet.pdf](http://www.vernet-dels-banys.eu/vlb_english/oconnor_vernet.pdf)

Vernet-les-Bains is the only settlement in France with a monument to the 1904 Entente Cordiale between France and Britain. Information about this monument (partly in English) is available here:

[www.vernet-dels-banys.eu/vlb\\_english/entente\\_cordiale.pdf](http://www.vernet-dels-banys.eu/vlb_english/entente_cordiale.pdf)

### **For further information:**

*In French:*

*Vernet-les-Bains tourist office website:* [www.vernet-les-bains.fr](http://www.vernet-les-bains.fr)

*How to get to Vernet-les-Bains:* [www.vernet-les-bains.fr/page/comment-venir](http://www.vernet-les-bains.fr/page/comment-venir)

*Accommodation:* [www.vernet-les-bains.fr/hebergements](http://www.vernet-les-bains.fr/hebergements)

*In English:*

*Tourist information (Pyrénées-Orientales):* [www.pyrenees.fr/uk/il4-orientales\\_p41-pyrenees-orientales.aspx](http://www.pyrenees.fr/uk/il4-orientales_p41-pyrenees-orientales.aspx)

*Wikipedia:* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vernet-les-Bains>

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