



Nîmes-le-Vieux

Causses Gorges - Fraissinet-de-Fourques



Paysage du causse Méjean à Galy (© Olivier Prohin)



This ruiniform block field (felsenmeer) on the Causse Méjean has resulted from the capricious dissolution of the dolomite limestone. It emerges suddenly, like a final panoramic viewpoint before the abyss of the gorges that delimit the Causse.

The Nîmes-le-Vieux Trail showcases a variety of typical Causse Méjean landscapes: stony arid hillocks; a few hollows of deep soil overlaid with winding plough lines; steep promontories looming rampart-like; and vast stretches of craggy rocks, whose shapes fire your imagination and captivate you.

Useful information

Practice : Discovery trails

Duration : 1 h 30

Length : 3.0 km

Trek ascent : 95 m

Difficulty : Very easy

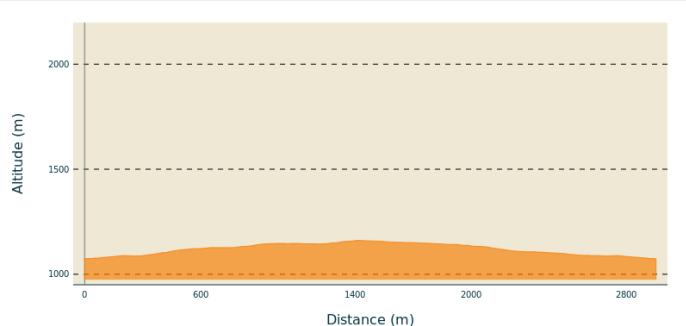
Type : Loop

Themes : Agriculture and livestock farming, Causses and Cévennes / UNESCO, Water and geology

Trek

Departure : L'Hom, car park
Arrival : L'Hom, car park
Markings :  découverte PNC
Cities : 1. Fraissinet-de-Fourques
2. Vebron

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1074 m Max elevation 1161 m

From the car park, walk about 150 m through the hamlet, then turn left after the agricultural buildings.

On your path...



▲ Nîmes-le-Vieux: a trail to the very core of dolomite rock (A)

◆ Imps of shrubs and rocks (C)

◆ Attack! (E)

▲ A “handmade” landscape (B)

● A drop, time and an abyss (D)

○ When the herdsman... (F)

All useful information



Is in the midst of the park

The national park is an unrestricted natural area but subjected to regulations which must be known by all visitors.



Advices

This walk has six numbered information panels.

Horse-riding or mountain-biking are not allowed on or adapted to discovery trails.

How to come ?

Access

Col du Perjuret, on the D 996 from Florac or Meyrueis, or on the D 18 from Mont Aigoual. At the Col du Perjuret, head towards L'Hom, where the walk starts.

It is not possible to start this walk from Galy.

Advised parking

Car park on the right as you enter L'Hom hamlet

Information desks

Tourism'house and national Parc at Florac

Place de l'ancienne gare, N106, 48400
Florac-trois-rivières

info@cevennes-parcnational.fr

Tel : 04 66 45 01 14

<https://www.cevennes-gorges-du-tarn.com>



Source



Parc national des Cévennes

<http://www.cevennes-parcnational.fr/>

On your path...



▲ Nîmes-le-Vieux: a trail to the very core of dolomite rock (A)

The block field of Nîmes-le-Vieux was given its name in 1908 by its “discoverer” Paul Arnal, the Protestant pastor of Vébron. In 1910, the journal Causses and Cévennes published an article about the site by the famous geographer E.A. Martel: “Unlike Montpellier-le-Vieux, it is not a collection of enclosed spaces 100 m deep and grouped around a central rocky range, but a cliff front, a projection of the Causse Méjean surface that presents a long stretch of semi-circles all bristling with hundreds of carved, sculpted Dolomite rocks full of holes...”

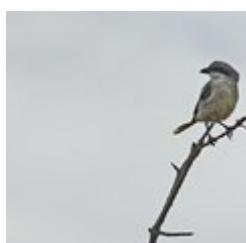
Attribution : © Eddie Balaye



▲ A “handmade” landscape (B)

The hamlet of L'Hom stands sheltered from the north and west winds by a rocky barrier, on the edge of a basin of deep soil (doline) that is the reason for its being built in this very spot.

Attribution : © Guy Grégoire



▲ Imps of shrubs and rocks (C)

Birds as light as sprites and as quick to vanish find shelter and food here. The combination of short-grass prairie rich in both grasses and herbaceous plants (and frequented by insects and rodents), and rocky areas offering much shelter means that many varieties of bird can be observed.

Attribution : © Régis Descamps



ⓘ A drop, time and an abyss (D)

This ruiniform relief has resulted from the dissolution of the bedrock, which has left behind the most resistant parts and given them the most varied shapes. The areas that are currently hollows have been subject to the most intense erosion, which has in some places created arches, vaults and even small gorges. Since the Causses emerged from the sea during the Mesozoic, rainwater from the lower strata of the atmosphere (and hence high in carbonic acid) has entered the bedrock through its many fissures and permeated its depths, speeding up its erosion.

Attribution : © Guy Grégoire



ⓘ Attack! (E)

Even on bare rock, plant life manages to get a hold and evolve increasingly plentiful habitats for species that are increasingly demanding. From lichens to flowering plants, this is the great adventure of plant life, starting from the driest mineral substrate.

Attribution : © Yves Maccagno



ⓘ When the herdsman... (F)

The chorus of the “Chanson du Bouvier” inflects in the vowels of the alphabet (to which ancient civilisations attributed the virtue of an incantation) the “divine name which must not be pronounced”. Bouvier is also the old name for the Arcturus constellation (Boötes), which is near Ursa Major and looks as though it is following the latter’s Plough through boundless space, as a herdsman follows his cattle.

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