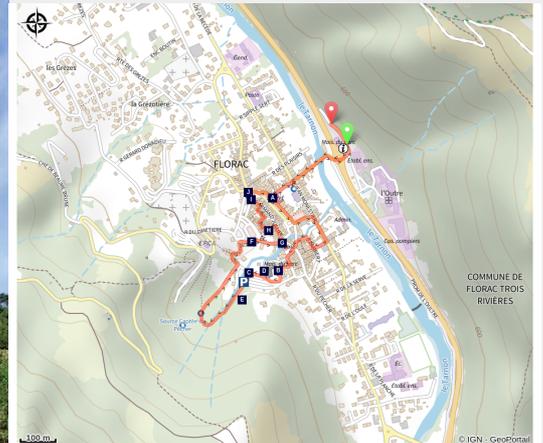


Florac: a spring in the town

Causses Gorges - Florac Trois Rivières



Le Rochefort, Florac (© Olivier Prohin)



From lanes to little squares, this walk crosses the town of Florac to reach a beautiful grass amphitheatre near the spring of the river Pesquié (Pêcher).

This short walk explores the old parts of Florac, a small town built at the junction of four streams (Vibron, Tarnon, Mimente, Tarn) and several historical traffic axes: a draille (drovers' road for taking livestock to summer mountain pastures) and Royal roads linking Languedoc and the Auvergne. Upstream from the town, the spring of the Pêcher mysteriously gushes out of a big mass of fallen rocks from the Causse Méjean.

Useful information

Practice : Discovery trails

Duration : 1 h 30

Length : 2.4 km

Trek ascent : 72 m

Difficulty : Very easy

Type : Loop

Themes : Architecture and village, Water and geology

Trek

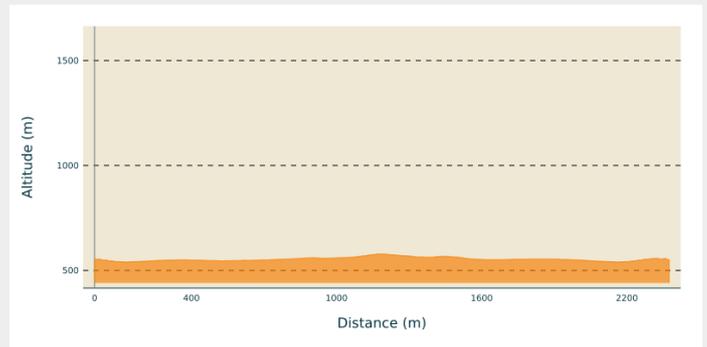
Departure : Maison du tourisme et du Parc

Arrival : Maison du tourisme et du Parc

Markings : 🗺️ découverte PNC

Cities : 1. Florac Trois Rivières

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 540 m Max elevation 578 m

On your path...



-  The Esplanade (A)
-  The ferradou and fairground (C)
-  The Pesquié spring (E)
-  The river Vibron (G)
-  Grand-Rue (I)
-  The castle and fairground (B)
-  The former fish farm (D)
-  Saint-Martin's Church (F)
-  The former convent (H)
-  The Planet neighbourhood (J)

All useful information

How to come ?

Transports

Bus stop: Florac, Place ancienne gare

Bus line 258 “Florac – Sainte-Enimie – Le Rozier”, every day in July and August

Bus line 261 “Florac – Le Pont de Montvert – Mont Lozère”, every day in July and August

Bus line 251 “Florac – Mende”
Year-round daily service Monday to Saturday

Bus line 252 “Ispagnac – Florac – Alès”

<https://lio.laregion.fr/>

Access

On the N 106 from Mende or Alès.

Advised parking

Maison du Tourisme et du Parc car park, N106

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



Commune de Florac Trois Rivières

<http://www.ville-florac.fr>



Parc national des Cévennes

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

On your path...



The Esplanade (A)

The covered passage of the sub-prefecture is one of several in Florac, running beneath the houses. You have just gone through the former town wall and now find yourself inside the medieval town. Besides the beautiful ancient plane trees (the oldest are 200 years old), you can see, at one end, the statue of Léon Boyer, who built the Garabit viaduct with Gustave Eiffel and died in 1883 in Panama, where he was working on the construction of the Canal; and at the other end, the temple (Protestant church) and the War Memorial.

Attribution : PROHIN Olivier



The castle and fairground (B)

Florac castle was rebuilt in 1652, after the religious wars, and now stands on the spot of the former feudal castle, mentioned in records dating back to the early 13th century. During the French Revolution, the castle was turned into a salt loft for storing salt. Sold to the French State in 1810, it was used as a prison. It still retains some features of that period. Since 1976, the castle has been the seat of the Cévennes National Park.

Attribution : © Guy Grégoire



The ferradou and fairground (C)

The ferradou was once the place where oxen were shod. It is located next to the public weigh house on the former fairground, where Florac's thirteen annual fairs used to be held. These fairs were an occasion for trade between the regions. People would come from the Causses, Cévennes, Mont Lozère and even further afield to sell their sheep, goats, cows, oxen and pigs. Wine, chestnuts, wheat, fruit, clogs and woollen cloth would also have been sold. These fairs were also great festivities, which some people celebrated by drinking beyond reason before staggering back to their villages!

Attribution : PROHIN Olivier



The former fish farm (D)

Situated upstream of the former Draille Bridge, the fish farm carries on a local tradition of fish farming that was no doubt ancient. Behind the fish farm you will find one of Florac's former mills (the mill of the spring). The mills served several purposes: grinding wheat, pressing walnuts for oil, fulling wool, etc.

Attribution : PROHIN Olivier



The Pesquié spring (E)

The spring of the Pêcher surges in several places from a big mass of fallen rocks. It has not been possible so far to explore any of these points further. The spring provides a lot of water, but in irregular quantities:

- low flow rate: between 80 L/s and 200 L/s
- average flow rate: between 1,250 L/s and 7,000 L/s

The average temperature is 10 to 10.2°C.

Attribution : PROHIN Olivier



Saint-Martin's Church (F)

The original church, the Chaise-Dieu Priory church, stood on the site of the current church, surrounded by a cemetery. Between the 13th and 15th century, Florac was known for the power struggle between its priory and its lord, who lived on the other side of the Bibrou (Vibron) river. The church was destroyed in 1561 and a temple (Protestant church) built on its vestiges. Florac was devastated many times by religious wars: the temple, the clock and the church tower were all destroyed at the beginning of the 17th century (1629). The current Catholic church, built in the neoclassical style, dates from 1833, just like the temple on the Esplanade.

Attribution : PROHIN Olivier



The river Vibron (G)

This river has been used as the drinking-water supply for the town's many fountains, to irrigate its gardens, power up to eight water mills and provide water for a fish farm. In the old days, it was also used for public wash-houses, tanneries and as a drain for waste water.

Attribution : PROHIN Olivier



The former convent (H)

Originally built to house a hospital, this building became a Capuchin convent in the 17th century. Subsequently transformed back in to a hospital, it has since also been the seat of the sub-prefecture and a religious institution. It is known as the "house of the Congregation" and is today used as a private school. We have to picture it in the late 17th century, when this district was densely populated, teemed with life and saw much economic activity: textile craftsmen, leather craftsmen, mule drivers, carters and innkeepers, who made their living from the merchants and goods passing through.

Attribution : PROHIN Olivier



🏰 Grand-Rue (I)

Rue Armand Jullié used to be Florac's trading street and would have been lined with workshops with typical shop fronts. Mule drivers once used this road to carry their goods from the Auvergne down to the Midi, before they were replaced by cart drivers and finally wagoners. More than twenty wagoners would stop off in Florac at the turn of the 20th century. They would rest here and, before resuming their journey, would take on additional horses to help climb the steep hills that awaited them on the road ahead.

Attribution : PROHIN Olivier



🏰 The Planet neighbourhood (J)

In the 16th and 17th centuries, a large number of religious conflicts between Catholics and Protestants affected the Cévennes, bringing with them much destruction. After the Peace of Alais was signed by Richelieu and the Duke of Rohan in June 1629, Protestants retained the right to practise their religion, but their fortifications were razed. This included Florac's town walls. The house bearing this information panel is one of the town's oldest: its tower used to watch over Thérond Gate. It also stands at the crossroads of the former road linking Nîmes with Saint-Flour and the former road from Florac to Séverac via the Causse plateau.

Attribution : PROHIN Olivier