

Gralhon

Causses Gorges - Florac Trois Rivières



Vue sur les corniches (© Nathalie Thomas)



With panoramic views onto Florac and the Tarnon valley, this is a handsome trail amongst the chestnut trees that allows you to explore schist and limestone hamlets.

This fairly short trail is ideal for those who are unsure about braving the tough ascent to the Causse plateau. It leads hikers under the cliffs, from where they have towering views over the small town of Florac nestling in the hollow of the narrow Tarnon valley, and then into the very heart of a chestnut grove.

Useful information

Practice : Hiking on foot

Duration : 2 h 30

Length : 8.3 km

Trek ascent : 457 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Loop

Themes : Agriculture and livestock farming, Architecture and village, Water and geology

Trek

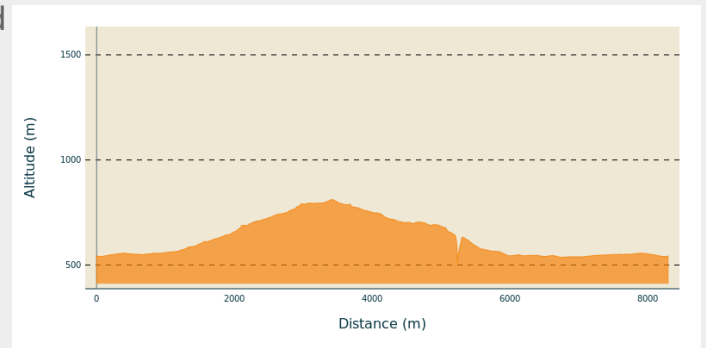
Departure : Florac: joint tourist office and National Park information centre

Arrival : Florac: joint tourist office and National Park information centre

Markings :  Yellow waymarks

Cities : 1. Florac Trois Rivières

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 511 m Max elevation 812 m

Starting at the joint tourism office and National Park information centre, cross the RN106 main road. Cross the metal bridge and go straight ahead until you reach the Esplanade. Turn right and then right again onto Rue du Thérond. Before the roundabout, turn left towards Lotissement "Les Grèzes".

1. At the second crossroads, in a big bend, go straight ahead and immediately take the path on the left going uphill towards a house. There, take the path on the right.
2. At Gralhon, follow the road for 400 m.
3. Leave the road to take a track on the right that runs along a flat ledge of the Causse Méjean, below the cliffs, to the hamlet of Monteils.
4. Go through the hamlet.
5. As you leave it, take on your right a path that goes downhill through the chestnut grove, cutting across the road. Cross an old bridge as you come out of the forest, then take the road to Salièges.
6. From here, follow the road downhill and along the river Tarn to Florac.

On your path...



- ▲ The Esplanade (A)
- ▲ The vines of Florac (C)
- ▲ Brutus Casal, poet and committed citizen. (E)

- ▲ The Planet neighbourhood (B)
- ▲ Gralhon manor (D)
- ▲ The iron-rich water of Salce (F)

All useful information

Advices

Make sure your equipment is appropriate for the day's weather conditions. Remember that the weather changes quickly in the mountains. Take enough water, wear good shoes and put on a hat. Please close all gates and barriers after yourself.

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 RN106, car park in front of the former train station, now the Maison du Tourisme et du Parc national des Cévennes (joint tourism office and National Park information centre).

Advised parking

Car park, joint tourism office and National Park information centre.

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



CC Gorges Causses Cévennes

<https://www.gorgescaussescevennes.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 Planet neighbourhood (B)

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



The vines of Florac (C)

Some vines still grow at the edges of paths or cling to trees and scrub; a few people still make their own wine. But today it is an anecdotal activity. Florac was once encircled by grapevines growing on terraces, and every farmer made several hundred litres of wine. But in around 1945, rural flight and the arduousness of the work led to these vine arbours being abandoned. In 2003, two wine-growers moved to Ispagnac, and viticulture was reborn.

Attribution : © jean Pierre Malafosse



🌐 Gralhon manor (D)

"Gralhon Manor owes its construction here to the presence of a flat area consisting of fairly soft marl – whose gently-sloping profile is well-suited to crop cultivation – and of a spring located just above the houses. The water re-emerges here, having gone through the Causses limestone and hit impermeable schist. Its name might come from the Occitan *gral*, the raven – the real raven, which nests in the cliffs of the Causse, and not the crow." (P. Grime)

Attribution : © com com Florac Sud Lozère



🏠 Brutus Cazal, poet and committed citizen. (E)

Monteils is the hamlet in which Louis Brutus Cazal was born and died. He was one of those primary school teachers who were nicknamed "black ravens of the Republic". He called his daughters Léa Fraternité and Léa Liberté to express his republican sentiments, which were common to many Protestant families at the time. A poet and defender of the Occitan language, he wrote a collection of poems entitled *Les Lozériens*. From 1925 on, he devoted himself to tourism in the Cévennes and founded the Club Cévenol. His son, Aimé Cazal, laid out two important tourist sites: Bramabiau chasm and Dargilan cave.

Attribution : © com com Florac Sud Lozère

🌐 The iron-rich water of Salce (F)

After a small detour from the hamlet of Salièges to the river Tarn, you will come across a spring of ferruginous water. For a long time, the ability to prevent (or cure) alcoholism was attributed to this water rich in Fe^{2+} ions, and made famous by a sketch by the stand-up comedian Bourvil. It supposedly supplies the iron that would normally come from regularly drinking alcohol. A small construction indicates the Salce spring (the path from Salièges is way-marked), as does the red tinting from iron oxide, which you find in many contact zones between schist and limestone.