

Puecheral

Causses Gorges



Bougès au loin (© com com Florac Sud Lozère)



Walk a part of the draille de la Margeride (drovers' road), in the footsteps of the shepherds who used it to move their flocks from the plains to the high pastures of Lozère.

Useful information

Practice : Hiking on foot

Duration : 3 h 30

Length : 11.5 km

Trek ascent : 512 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Loop

Themes : Agriculture and livestock farming, Architecture and village, Fauna and flora, History and culture

Trek

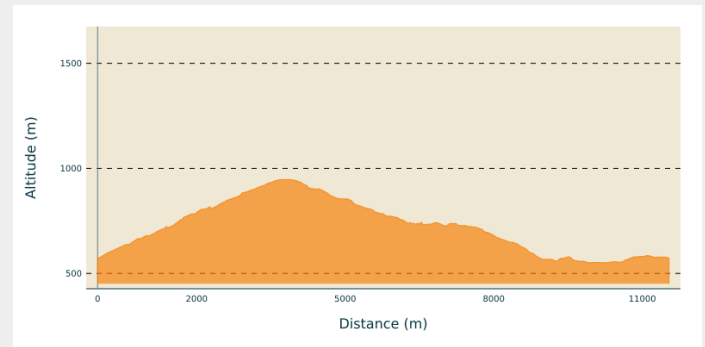
Departure : Either at the Pont du Tarn holiday village or in Bédouès

Arrival : Either at the Pont du Tarn holiday village or in Bédouès

Markings :  Yellow waymarks

Cities : 1. Florac Trois Rivières
2. Bédouès-Cocurès
3. Les Bondons

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 551 m Max elevation 948 m

Start above the holiday village “Le Pont du Tarn” (in the Azinières part of Florac) or on the square by the village hall in Bédouès (take the D998 towards Florac, at the crossing turn right towards La Baume, and then turn left at the metal bridge, to pick up the signposted walk). From the car park above the holiday village, join the road (Chemin d’Yssenges) and go uphill to a track. Your path follows the main track, but cuts off one of its hairpin bends. At the next crossing, take the track on the right. At the Col d’Issenges pass, go downhill on the main track on the right, then take a small path on the left to reach Chadenet. In Chadenet, go downhill on the small lane and take the path on the right. During the descent, you leave this to take a small steep path. At its bottom, turn right onto a road that crosses the campsite and continue on the path above the Tarn. If you started at Bédouès, turn left at the metal bridge to cross it, then left again to reach the car park by Bédouès village hall. If not, to get back to the holiday village, continue straight ahead on the road and then on the path to Azinières. Take the road opposite to reach “Le Pont du Tarn”.

On your path...



Transhumant history (A)
The Manoir d'Issenges (C)
The Gautier goat farm (E)

The draille de la Margeride (B)
The sweet-chestnut grove (D)
Château d'Arigès (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: Bédouès

- Bus line 261 "Florac - Le Pont de Montvert - Mont Lozère", every day in July and August

Bus stop: Florac, Place ancienne gare 2km from the trail.

- Bus line 258 "Florac - Sainte-Enimie - Le Rozier", 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

From Florac, take the D 998 road, direction Bédouès

Advised parking

car park at the village hall (salle des fêtes) in Bédouès

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



Agence d'Attractivité Touristique Gorges Causses Cévennes

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



Parc national des Cévennes

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

On your path...



Transhumant history (A)

“I moved my sheep to summer pastures all the way in the Margeride. I'm from up there myself. When I was a kid, there were many of us in the family, and whenever we saw a transhumant [seasonally migrating] shepherd pass by, my dad would say: one day you'll have to go off with a shepherd... I left and became a transhumant shepherd. My first stopover was Bonperrier. Then we'd eat at L'Hospitalet, and go down to Florac for the night. I moved pastures with 4,000 sheep.”

Attribution : © com com Florac Sud Lozère



The draille de la Margeride (B)

The ascent to Issenges is on the draille de la Margeride. A draille is a path used by herds of goats during the transhumance: moving up to the mountain pastures in June and coming back down again in September.

Attribution : © CC Florac Sud Lozère



The Manoir d'Issenges (C)

This fortified house, built from 1624 onwards, is an example of a type of rural seigneurial estate inherited from the Middle Ages. The complex consists of three buildings: the main building with its almost square ground plan, and two long and low wings of farm buildings, which together enclose a courtyard open to the gardens to the east. The entrance is via an archway located at the southern corner of the main building. This building must have had four corner turrets, a projecting tower in the centre that contained the spiral staircase, and an entrance topped by a pediment. This fortified look was reinforced by musket slits and a parapet, or at least a brattice over the entrance gates. The turrets have been demolished and the central tower reduced in height. The mullioned windows have been preserved. A stone shows the date of 1624.

Attribution : © CC Florac Sud Lozère



The sweet-chestnut grove (D)

The chestnut grove borders the former track from Chadenet to Bédouès. Many other species (oak, ash, hazelnut) have settled in this grove since it stopped being exploited 50 years ago.

“Towards Chadenet, trees were cut for the tannins, they were cut before the Great War. My father worked there, bringing the trees down the mountain with oxen. There were four or five of them, each with his pair of oxen, and they brought it all down by the track all the way to Pontèze.”

Attribution : © Nathalie Thomas



The Gautier goat farm (E)

Yolande and Christian run a small farm where they make farmhouse goat's cheese, a typically Cévenol product. Their herd consists of 60 Alpine dairy goats, and all their milk is processed on-site into farmhouse cheese. From late November to late April, the nanny goats have a break so their little ones can feed!

Attribution : © Olivier Prohin



Château d'Arigès (F)

This can be seen on your left, in a gap in the forest. It was only a share-cropping farm, whose buildings were in ruins, when the Lord of Issenges bought it in 1658. He lived in it from 1688. This Château, which is no doubt more comfortable than the « maison carrée » (“square house”), was built in a river bend of the Tarn and is surrounded by fertile soils well-suited for crop-growing.

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