

Le Villaret

Mont Lozère



(© Morgane Pierredon)



L'intimité des Cévennes

This short family walk overlooking the Luech gorge explores the Cevenol hamlets of Le Villaret and Le Massufret.

Useful information

Practice : Hiking on foot

Duration : 2 h

Length : 5.4 km

Trek ascent : 256 m

Difficulty : Easy


Type : Loop

Themes : Architecture and village,
History and culture

Trek

Departure : Col de la Baraquette pass

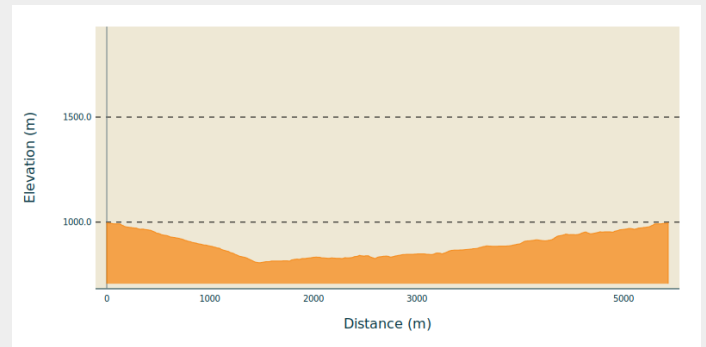
Arrival : Col de la Baraquette pass

Markings :  Yellow waymarks

Cities : 1. Pont de Montvert - Sud Mont Lozère

2. Ventalon en Cévennes

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 807 m Max elevation 996 m

Take the path that goes downhill from the car park. After 50 m, take the path on the right. At a fork, take the track on the left and, some 20 m further, the path on the right. Two granite boulders open the path that goes downhill between birches in a north-easterly direction. Above the village, take the track leading to Le Massufret. The track overlooks the Luech gorge with its sides of sheer jagged rock. It joins up with the Massufret road amidst former meadows now invaded by young ash trees, growing straight and close together. The road goes past a covered fountain, through the hamlet of Le Massufret with its schist houses with granite lintels, and a few ruins. As you leave the hamlet, take the track that leads back to the Col de la Baraquette.

On your path...



Le Villaret mine (A)
Path history (C)

Le Massufret (B)

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

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. This trail is also suitable for mountain-bikes.

How to come ?

Access

Col de la Baraquette. At Croix de Berthel, head towards Alès. After 3km, turn left.

Advised parking

At the Col de la Baraquette

Accessibility

Aucun

Information desks

Office de tourisme Des Cévennes au mont Lozère

le Quai, 48220 Le Pont de Montvert sud
mont-Lozère

info@cevennes-montlozere.com

Tel : 04 66 45 81 94

<https://www.cevennes-montlozere.com/>



Source



CC des Cévennes au Mont Lozère

<http://www.cevennes-mont-lozere.fr/>



Parc national des Cévennes

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



Pôle pleine nature Mont Lozère

On your path...



Le Villaret mine (A)

In around 1920, a baryte mine brought much-appreciated income to over 20 families. “Transport was by tractor carrying a crate that contained 2 tons of baryte and pulling a trailer that contained another four tons. That way, we transported 6 tons per trip to the train station at Génolhac, and, when all was going well, we did two trips per day, so a maximum of 500 tons a month” (Aristide Vignes).

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Le Massufret (B)

This hamlet was once very lively, since there was a school for a dozen children before World War Two. “It was basically a farmers' village. They weren't really looking to make money but to survive, in the tradition of farmers in the Cevennes. They lived according to the season: in summer, they prepared for winter. Chestnuts and potatoes were the staple foods, and there was soup at every meal” (Mr Velay).

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Path history (C)

A network of paths linked Le Massufret with the other hamlets in the municipality. A mule track lead from Montjoie to the Le Massufret (in Montjoie, you can see a circular platform, probably a vestige of an oppidum, a pre-Roman hill-fort). One path led through the valley to Soleyrols, another went to L'Aubaret on Mont Lozère or to Le Masmin, on the other side of the Ventalon ridge. At the time of the Camisards, after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes (1685), Protestants chose to meet clandestinely, at night, in remote locations. Their gatherings had to kept secret from the authorities. Preachers replaced the exiled pastors and recited Biblical texts. Inhabitants from all four corners of the municipality held gatherings in Le Massufret near a rock below the apiary.

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