

Ravin de l'Enfer (Hell Ravine)

Mont Lozère - Ventalon en Cévennes



Ravin de l'Enfer (Nathalie Thomas)



Discovery of two valleys in Ventalon-en-Cévennes

Explore two valleys in Ventalon-en-Cévennes, a village which, like others in the Cévennes, has no centre but consists of scattered hamlets instead.

Useful information

Practice : Hiking on foot

Duration : 5 h

Length : 12.1 km

Trek ascent : 793 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Loop

Themes : Architecture and village, History and culture, Water and geology

Trek

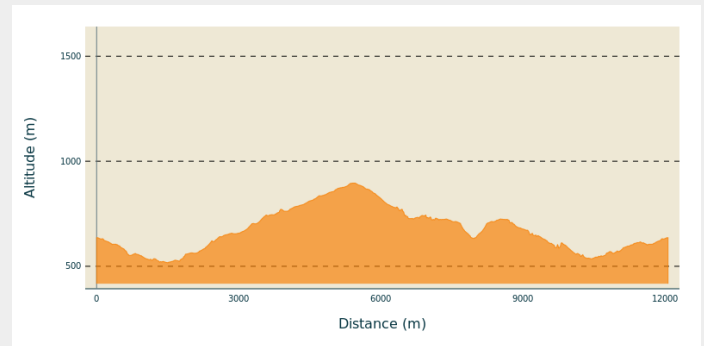
Departure : “Le Temple” in St-Frézal de Ventalon

Arrival : “Le Temple” in St-Frézal de Ventalon

Markings :  Yellow waymarks

Cities : 1. Ventalon en Cévennes

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 517 m Max elevation 896 m



Signposts will guide you all along this route, as well as yellow painted waymarks. In the description below, the signposted place names and/or directions are given in ***bold italics*** between quotation marks:



Starting at “***Ventalon en Cévennes***”, walk towards “***Conches***” via “***St-Frézal-Le Temple***”, “***Le Géripon***”, “***Le Chambonnet***”. In “***Conches***” head towards “***Le Salson***”. In “***Le Salson***”, faire un allée/retour au Moulin par « ***Salson Nord*** ». De retour à « ***Le Salson*** », direction « ***Ventalon en Cévennes*** » par « ***Le Grenier*** », « ***Le Géripon*** » et « ***St-Frézal - Le Temple*** ».

This hike is taken from the guidebook **Mont Lozère - Pays des sources, Sommet des Cévennes**, published by the Pôle de pleine nature du Mont Lozère.

On your path...



-  Le Chambonnet (A)
-  The mill (C)

-  Boutade des Abrits (B)
-  The temple of St- Frézal de Ventalon (D)

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 sturdy shoes and put on a hat. Please close all gates and barriers behind you.

How to come ?

Access

Access via the valley: N106 and D29. Via the ridge: D35.

Advised parking

At "Le Temple" in St-Frézal de Ventalon

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 Chambonnet (A)

Until 1965 the water supply for this hamlet was by béal (irrigation channel), from the brook below the temple. Imagine a channel 650 m long, 25 cm wide and 10 cm deep. Upkeep required an enormous effort to plug fissures, remove chestnut burrs, twigs and leaves. The fountain, a granite trough, was where the béal water arrived. Since then, several springs have been tapped.

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas



Boutade des Abrits (B)

This water reservoir is close to where the water was needed. It was built out of stones caulked with soil and is closed by a pierced stone and a wooden clasp.

Attribution : © Nathalie Thomas



The mill (C)

The mill, whose construction dates to 1790, was built and used by several landowners at Le Salson. It was the largest mill in the valley and had been cleverly designed. Its well-thought-out water course could activate several millstones at once. The mill was thus used to make groats while another millstone ground rye or wheat or buckwheat for flour and yet another crushed walnut kernels for oil.

In another building, pieces of caddis cloth were fulled. The water of the Gardon d'Alès was partially dammed and collected in a gourgue (basin) to activate the mill's horizontal wheels.

When the water re-emerged, it was channelled into béals (irrigation channels). A 2 km-long béal irrigated meadows and chestnut trees all the way to below Le Grenier.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



The temple of St- Frézal de Ventalon (D)

The temple (Protestant church) replaced a Catholic church that had been burnt down by the Camisards. The municipality bought the adjacent ruins in the early 1980s to turn them into a group gîte, an apartment and a community centre. In the hamlet of Le Géripon, you can see a small family cemetery. Cévenol Protestants, not having access to Catholic cemeteries, buried their dead on their land.

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