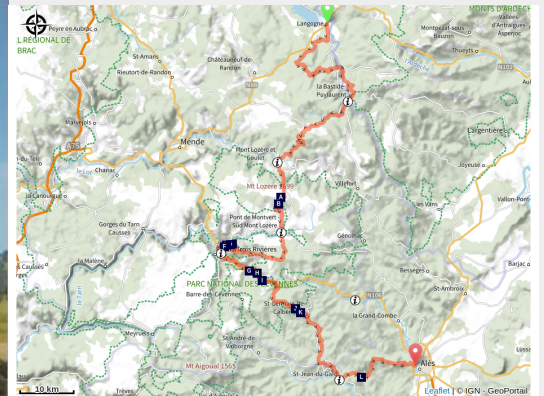


GR® 70, the Stevenson trail

Mont Lozère - Langogne



TopoGuides Le chemin de Stevenson (NT)



*"I travel not to go anywhere but to go. (...) The great affair is to move; to feel the needs and hitches of our life more nearly; to come down off this featherbed of civilization, and find the globe granite underfoot and strewn with cutting flints." (extract from *Travels with a Donkey in the Cévennes* (1879)).*

Whether you are on your own, with friends or family, on foot, donkey, by bike or on horseback: there are many ways to discover the route taken by Robert Louis Stevenson in 1878. You should allow two weeks for the hike from Le Puy-en-Velay to Alès, the capital of the Cévennes, via the Gévaudan and Mont Lozère. You can then discover the varied scenery and the stories it tells at your own rhythm ...

Useful information

Practice : Hiking on foot

Duration : 9 days

Length : 188.0 km

Trek ascent : 7231 m

Difficulty : Medium


Type : Roaming

Themes : Causses and Cévennes / UNESCO, Fauna and flora, History and culture

Trek

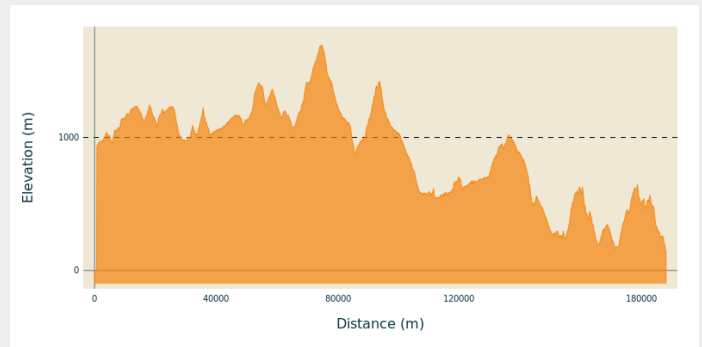
Departure : Le Bleymard

Arrival : Alès

Markings :  GR (long-distance hiking path)

- Cities** :
1. Langogne
 2. Saint-Flour-de-Mercoire
 3. Cheylard-l'Évêque
 4. Chaudeyrac
 5. Luc
 6. Laveyrune
 7. Saint-Laurent-les-Bains-Laval-d'Aurelle
 8. La Bastide-Puylaurent
 9. Mont Lozère et Goulet
 10. Cubières
 11. Pont de Montvert - Sud Mont Lozère
 12. Cassagnas
 13. Cans et Cévennes
 14. Florac Trois Rivières
 15. Bédouès-Cocurès
 16. Saint-Martin-de-Lansuscle
 17. Saint-Germain-de-Calberte
 18. Saint-Étienne-Vallée-Française
 19. Saint-Jean-du-Gard
 20. Mialet
 21. Saint-Sébastien-d'Aigrefeuille
 22. Saint-Paul-la-Coste
 23. Saint-Jean-du-Pin
 24. Cendras
 25. Alès

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 0 m Max elevation 1696 m

Only the section of this GR® [long-distance hiking path] which crosses the territory of the Cévennes National Park, from Le Bleymard to the outskirts of Alès, is described here.

You can find the entire itinerary in the topographic guidebook “Le Chemin de Stevenson” (ref. 700), published by the French hikers’ federation Fédération française de randonnée pédestre and available for purchase in the Maisons du tourisme et du Parc [joint tourist office and National Park information centre], the online shop at www.cevennes-parcnational.fr, bookshops, sports shops and at <https://boutique.ffrandonnee.fr>.

All information is also available on the website of the association “Sur le Chemin de Robert Louis Stevenson”: www.chemin-stevenson.org

On your path...



- Finiels summit (A)
- The river Tarn (C)
-  The brown trout (*Salmo trutta fario*) (E)
- Château de Saint-Julien-d'Arpaon (G)
- The disused railway (CéFéDé) (I)
- The King's road (K)
- The forest (B)
- Fages Sawmill (D)
- Saint-Saturnin chapel (F)
- The CFD (mountain-bike route) (H)
- Menhir (standing stone) (J)
- The Pont des Camisards (L)

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

NB: For various reasons, the waymarked path may differ from that shown in the topographic guidebook: please follow the waymarks on the trail. Make sure your equipment is appropriate for several days of hiking as well as 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 ?

Transports

- Ligne 282 Mende - Langogne - Le Puy en Velay
- Ligne 253 Mende - Bagnols les bains - Mont Lozère.
- Ligne 261 Florac - Le Pont de Montvert - Mont Lozère
- Ligne 252 Florac - Alès
- Ligne 251 Florac - Mende
- Ligne 112 et 142 pour aller de Saint-jean du gard à Alès
- <https://www.lio-occitanie.fr>

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/>

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>

Tourism office Cévennes Tourisme, Saint-Jean-du-Gard

Maison rouge, 30270 Saint-Jean-du-Gard

contact@cevennes-tourisme.fr

Tel : 04 66 85 32 11

<https://www.cevennes-tourisme.fr/>

Tourism office Des Cévennes au mont-Lozère, Le Collet-de-Dèze

RN 106, 48160 Le Collet-de-Dèze

info@cevennes-montlozere.com

Tel : 04 66 45 81 94

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

Office de tourisme Mont-Lozère, La Bastide-Puylaurent

Mairie, 48250 La Bastide-Puylaurent

contact@destination-montlozere.fr

Tel : 04 66 46 12 83

<https://www.destination-montlozere.fr/>

Office de tourisme Mont Lozère - Le Bleymard

Place de l'église - Le Bleymard, 48190
Mont Lozère et Goulet

contact@destination-montlozere.fr

Tel : 04 66 47 61 13

<https://www.destination-montlozere.fr/>

Source



Comité départemental de la randonnée pédestre 48

<http://lozere.ffrandonnee.fr/>



Comité départemental de la randonnée pédestre Gard

<http://gard.ffrandonnee.fr/>



Fédération française de la randonnée pédestre

<https://www.ffrandonnee.fr/>

On your path...



Finiels summit (A)

The short-grass prairie consisting of a coarse grass species called matgrass adapts to harsh weather conditions at altitude. In the spring, wavy snow dunes form in some hollows; small heaps seek shelter behind shrubs. The Eurasian skylark, meadow pipit and common linnet already try to cross the summit by fluttering close to the ground. On the summit itself, some islands of callune (heather, which has the particularity of flowering first at altitude) and some blueberry plants manage, with great difficulty, to establish themselves. Boundary stones have Maltese crosses carved into them. In the 12th century, Baron de Tournel gifted land located on the southern slopes of Mont Lozère to the Knights of Saint-John of Jerusalem. In the 16th century, this order became the Order of the Knights of Malta. The commandery was set up at L'Hôpital and its land delimited by these boundary markers.

Attribution : N.Thomas_pnc



The forest (B)

In the late 19th century, Mont Lozère was almost entirely deforested, largely due to the thousands of sheep that summered here (transhumance). In the early 20th century, reforestation was carried out by locals, who were sowing seeds and planting at the request of the French State, to prevent erosion. This allows us – and deer – to enjoy this “naturally disordered” forest today.

From 1964 onwards, large reforestation programmes were undertaken by companies using machines. The linear and regular layout of these plantations makes them easy to distinguish from older ones.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



The river Tarn (C)

The Tarn has its spring at an altitude of 1,550 m under the ridge of Mont Lozère. Having carved its way into the granite bedrock, it separates the Bougès massif from Mont Lozère. After Bédouès, it meets the river Tarnon and slowly enters the limestone region, in which its bed is increasingly deep. At its confluence with the Jonte, at Le Rozier, the Tarn leaves the department of the Lozère.

Attribution : © Yannick Manche



Fages Sawmill (D)

Upstream from Bédouès, you will see a sawmill, which mainly produces wood to make crates and pallets. It also produces some timber. Today, local forestry companies utilise wood in a number of ways: for energy, paper pulp, timber, crate-making and construction.

Attribution : © Olivier Prohin



The brown trout (*Salmo trutta fario*) (E)

This trout lives in our waterways and is an indigenous species. This stock is a part of our heritage. Its size varies with the quality of the water, fishing pressures, and the nature of the riverbed (hiding-places). In the summer, it hunts in white water and on the surface, and catches insects. In the winter, it eats larvae on the bottom. Reproduction begins in November and is staggered throughout the winter. The female lays its eggs on a gravelly stretch of the riverbed, into which it has dug a pit using its caudal fin. The male deposits its milt over the eggs. Once they are fertilised, the eggs are covered with gravel.

Reproductive success depends on variations in the water flow and especially on the risk of the spawning areas drying out in dry winters.

Attribution : © Philippe Baffie



Saint-Saturnin chapel (F)

Saint-Saturnin chapel stands at the heart of the village, surrounded by its cemetery. Inside every wall boasts a magnificent painted décor. It was built in the 12th century. Guillaume de Grimoard (the future Pope Urban V) was baptised here in 1309. It is next to the town hall (mairie) and is well worth a detour.

Attribution : © Nathalie Thomas



Château de Saint-Julien-d'Arpaon (G)

This 13th century castle was the property of the Lords of Anduze, who owned the barony of Florac in what was then the Gévaudan. In 1618, when the Gabriac family owned it, the castle was demolished. In the 18th century, it was inherited by the Montcalm family from Rouergue province, which owned several properties in the Gévaudan. The family restored the building, but it has suffered from effects of time and is currently in ruins – though in a better state of preservation than other castles in the Gévaudan.

Attribution : © com com Florac Sud Lozère



The CFD (mountain-bike route) (H)

Users and employees still talk of the former railway (CFD) with regret and emotion:

“To go to Montpellier on Mondays, I could leave at 6 in the morning, and arrive in Montpellier at 10, and you could get back here in the evening. The train arrived at 10 o'clock in the evening. Now (with the coach), you can go down, but you have to wait for the next day to come back up. It was very useful. Nowadays, if you don't have a car, what do you do? You hitch-hike, you walk!” (P. Grime)

“Two years after the train was shut down, we had the idea of putting it back on the track and turning it into a tourist train. We managed to get a railcar to start... We hadn't told anyone: apparently we didn't have the right to do it, we even risked getting a correctional sentence. Nothing happened... Except that at St-Julien-des-Points we gave a blast of this kind of horn that we had, and M., from the restaurant, came up with a litre of pastis, and two or three farmers from the area arrived too. We all cried like babies. We had the impression that the heart of the area was beating again.” (Revue Cévennes, issue 15)

Attribution : © com com Florac Sud Lozère



The disused railway (CéFéDé) (I)

From 1909 to 1968, this railway line linked Florac and Sainte-Cécile-d'Andorge (50 km). A metre-gauge single-track line, it was managed by the department's railway company. It was linked to the SNCF state railway network. The trains transported passengers and merchandise: ore from Ramponenche mine near Florac; baryte from the mine at Jalcreste, and plums, chestnut wood, dried boletus mushrooms, etc., destined for northern France. As you move along the disused line, you will see former engineered constructions (bridges, tunnels, etc.).

Attribution : © Cévennes Evasion



Menhir (standing stone) (J)

At the pass is a standing stone or menhir, a schist slab 1 ½ m high and 80 cm wide, which has circular depressions known as cup marks and carved rods. Many vestiges attest to the presence of humans in the schist valleys of the Cévennes as of 3,000 BC: tombs, menhirs, carved marks. Some 15 menhirs have been inventoried in the Gardon valleys. They are not grouped together but located on ridges or at passes. Their meaning remains very unclear: landmarks for orientation, symbols linked to worship, territorial markers, etc.?

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



The King's road (K)

You walk past a little building that used to house the roadmender's tools. The path you take is the former King's road between St-Germain-de-Calberte and Barre-des-Cévennes, which was rebuilt in the early 17th century on the orders of the Intendant of Languedoc, tasked with repressing the Camisard uprising. The King's roads allowed royal troops to penetrate into areas where movement was very difficult. This road is built on supporting walls and, in some sections, carved into the rock.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



The Pont des Camisards (L)

Legend has it that this humpback bridge was built from 1702 to 1704 by Jean Cavalier, a leader of the Protestant Camisard uprising against the Catholic King. And a legend is all it is. It was constructed a decade later, from 1714 to 1718, when Louis XIV's Intendant, a Monsieur de Basville, decided to develop the road network in the Cevennes. The diocese of Alès was responsible for funding a large share of the construction, and the inhabitants of Mialet were forced to participate through work or paying taxes. In 1976, it became a listed monument. (Nelly Bernard)

Attribution : nathalie.thomas