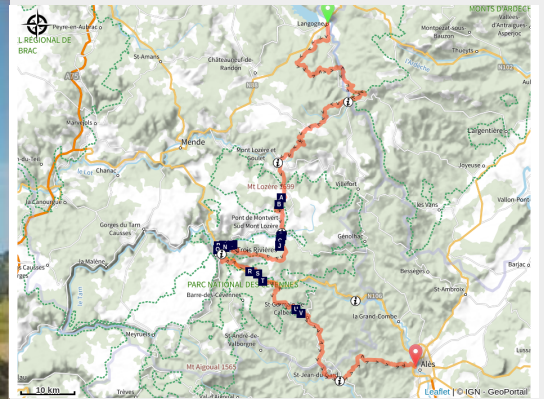


GR® 70, the Stevenson trail

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 : 198.9 km

Trek ascent : 7534 m

Difficulty : Medium


Type : Roaming

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

Trek

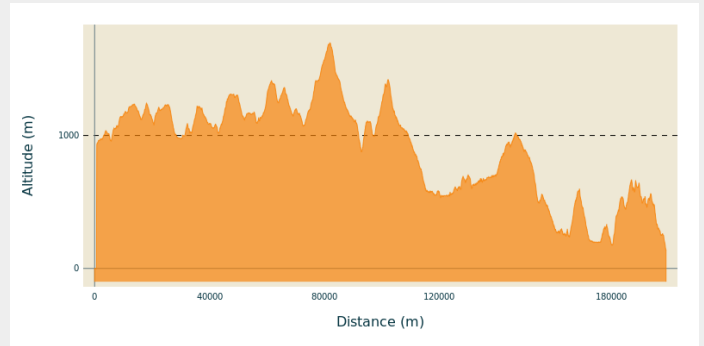
Departure : Le Bleynard

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-Paul-la-Coste
 22. Saint-Sébastien-d'Aigrefeuille
 23. Saint-Jean-du-Pin
 24. Cendras
 25. Alès

Altimetric profile



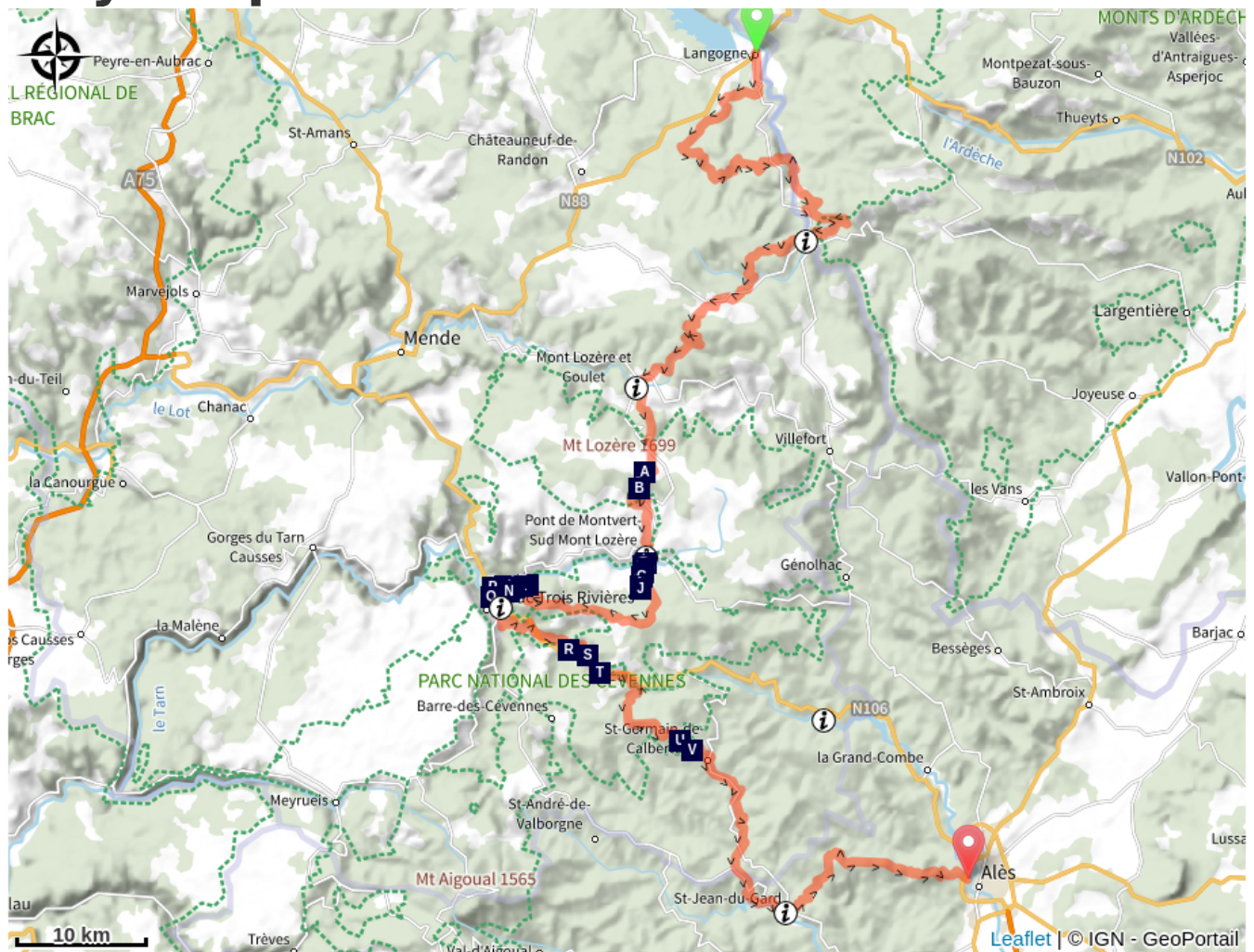
Min elevation 0 m Max elevation 1696 m














Only the section of this GR® [long-distance hiking path] which crosses the territory of the Cévennes National Park, from Le Bleynard 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 forest (B) |
|  Pont-de-Montvert (C) |  The Camisards' path (D) |
|  A rolling stone... (E) |  Sheepfold with lauze-covered roof (F) |
|  Panorama (G) |  A sheepfold in ruins (H) |
|  Heath alternating with hay meadows (I) |  Pine-forest fauna (J) |
|  The river Tarn (K) |  Fages Sawmill (L) |
|  The brown trout (<i>Salmo trutta fario</i>) (M) |  Saint-Saturnin chapel (N) |

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 Bleynard

Place de l'église - Le Bleynard, 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



📍 Pont-de-Montvert (C)

Marker 12

Le Pont-de-Montvert is at the confluence of the Tarn and two of its tributaries: the Rieumalet and the Martinet. The draille (drovers' road) has today almost disappeared, but it was once used by flocks from the south of France to reach the summer pastures on the Mont Lozère. The first neighbourhoods were established along this axis. In 1630 the village was almost as extensive as in the early 19th century. Three stone bridges were built over the rivers, but the great floods of 1827 and 1900 seriously damaged or destroyed them. The grand Tarn Bridge is the only stone bridge still standing. New neighbourhoods developed on the village's periphery, preserving the historic centre.

Attribution : © Guy Grégoire



📍 The Camisards' path (D)

Marker 11

This path used to be an important communication route linking Le Pont-de-Montvert with Barre-des-Cévennes. On 24 July 1702, it was used by a gathering of Huguenots coming from the Col des Trois Fayards, who intended to liberate their fellow Protestants being held by Abbot du Chayla in Le Pont-de-Montvert. These men thus used the path on which you stand. The tragic events that followed (including the Abbot's violent death) triggered the Camisard War. The landscape surrounding the village is the result of intense agricultural activity. All neighbouring slopes were cultivated, especially with rye, on man-made terraces called bancelles.

Attribution : © Brigitte Mathieu

📍 A rolling stone... (E)

Marker 10

On the plateau, the path has not always made a very distinct mark on the ground, evidence of little erosion. By contrast, the entire descent towards Le Pont-de-Montvert shows signs of more intense erosion, especially near the top where a large block has rolled into the middle of the path. It is the repeated passage of humans and animals that, combined with natural factors, eventually destabilised the rock. After the rock moved, the path was re-routed.

Sheepfold with lauze-covered roof (F)

Marker 9

Unlike the previous sheepfold, this one was built out of heavy, compact and solid materials. A granite vault instead of a timber roof suggests the rarity of wood. The roof was made watertight by schist lauzes (tilestones) on a bed of clay or coarse granite sand. This place is called La Jasse de Chanteloup (jasse/jas: resting place for animals; canteloube in popular etymology = place where the wolves howl, or, according to scholarly sources, luppe = stone, height, rounded mountain).

Panorama (G)

Marker 8

Views of the southern slope of Mont Lozère

A sheepfold in ruins (H)

Marker 7

You need to leave the path on the left and walk for about 200 metres to see this former shelter for farm animals (ovines and bovines). The materials for its construction were found locally: granite for the walls, Scots pine or oak for the timber part of the roof, rye thatch for the roof. The variety of rye grown locally had fine long straw. It was cut by scythe at the end of July and put into swathes, then stored in stacks and threshed on threshing-floors. Finally it was made into small sheaves, which were soaked before use to make the last seeds germinate and make the straw less breakable during thatching.



Heath alternating with hay meadows (I)

Marker 6

Callune has established itself on the knolls, meaning the convex areas which have poor and dry soils, whereas the meadows occupy the concave areas with their deeper and damper soils. All of these territories offer food sources for specific fauna. You may see hares, but also birds of prey (buzzards, hen and Montagu's harriers, short-toed snake eagles, common kestrels) and red-legged partridges.

Attribution : © Guy Grégoire

Pine-forest fauna (J)

Pine forests associated with blueberry zones are interesting environments for fauna: stags and roe deer come to browse the blueberry plants. Wild boar, foxes, martens and all birds eat their berries, including the Western capercaillie, which was reintroduced here by the National Park. You can also find coal tits, European crested tits, wrens, robins, mistle thrushes and black woodpeckers. Some birds of prey, such as the short-toed snake eagle, may come and build their nests at the highest point of a topped Scots pine.



The river Tarn (K)

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 (L)

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*) (M)

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 (N)

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