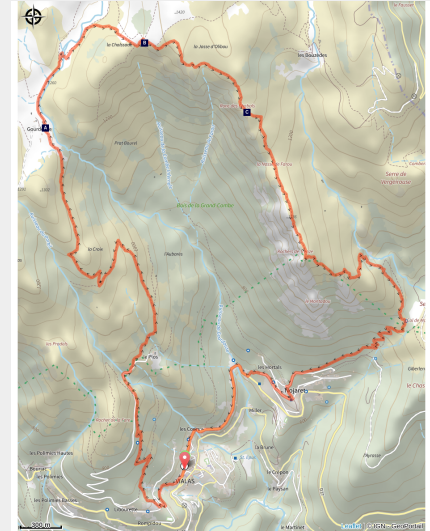


Gourdouze

Mont Lozère - Vialas



Montée sur Gourdouze (nathalie.thomas)



This loop starts with a steep climb before exploring the landscape of Mont Lozère along the southern border of the plateau.

This hike explores the old Mont Lozère mountain range, across broom heaths, on cobblestone paths, and through a landscape of evocatively shaped granite blocks, and especially a geological curiosity, the rocks of Trenze.

Useful information

Practice : Hiking on foot

Duration : 6 h 30

Length : 13.8 km

Trek ascent : 902 m

Difficulty : Difficult

Type : Loop

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

Trek

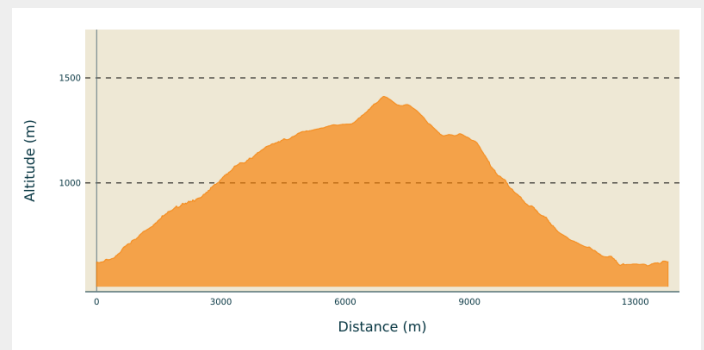
Departure : Vialas

Arrival : Vialas

Markings :  Yellow waymarks

Cities : 1. Vialas

Altimetric profile



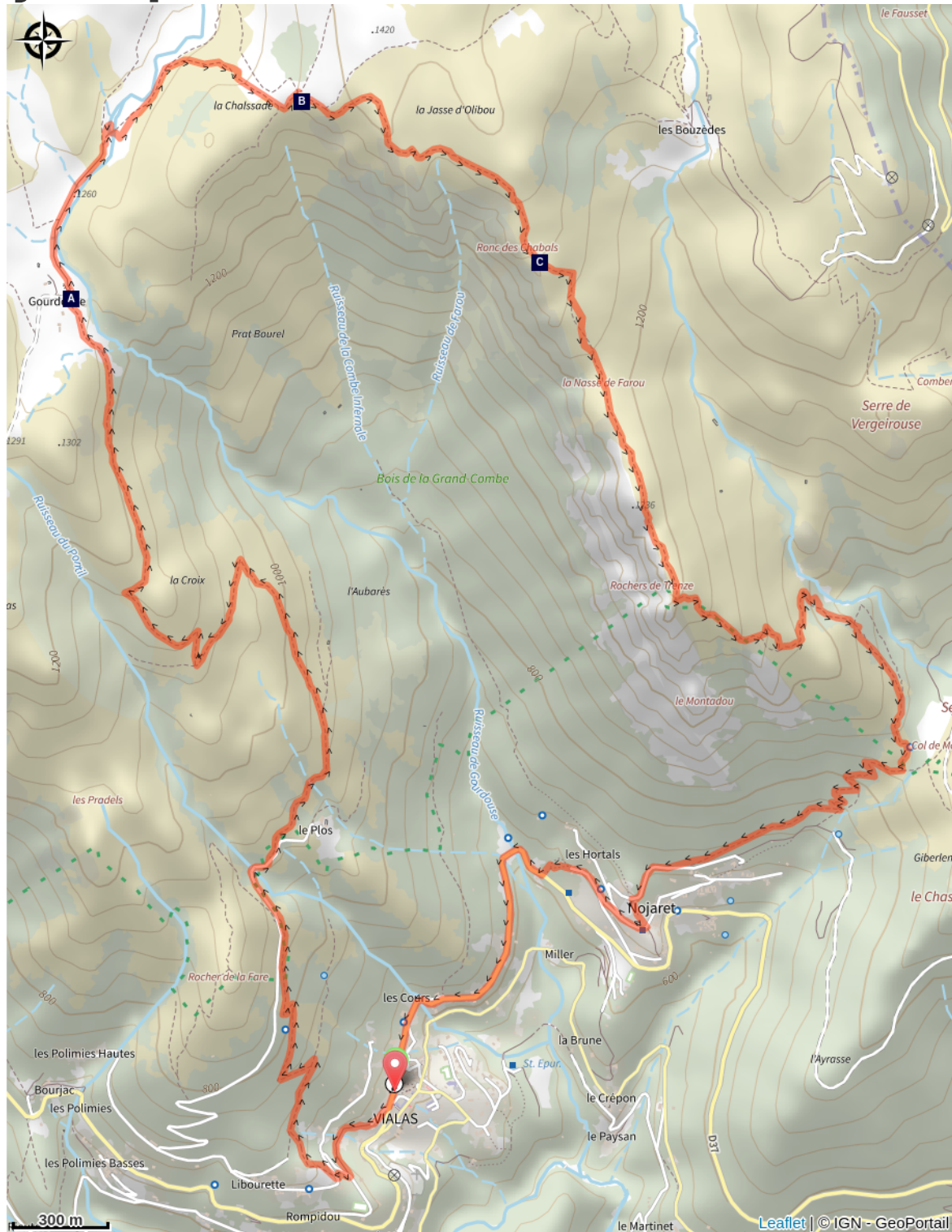
Min elevation 606 m Max elevation 1412 m

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

Climb to ***“Gourdouze”*** via ***“La Gendarmerie”, “Rompidou”***. At ***“Gourdouze”*** continue straight ahead towards ***“La Chassalde”***. Then take the right to ***“La Jasse d’Olibou”***. At ***“La Jasse d’Olibou”*** take the right towards ***“Les Sources”***: you are passing above the rocks of Trenze. At ***“Les Sources”***, make for ***“Nojaret - Ancienne école”*** via ***“Lous Pradous”, “Lou Garadou”, “Nojaret Haut”***. Return to ***“Vialas”*** via ***“Prat de la Peyre”, “Le Crépon”, “Fontaine de Foirail”***.

This walk is taken from the guidebook **Massif de l’Aigoual**, published by the communauté de communes Causses Aigoual Cévennes as part of the collection Espaces naturels gardois and the label Gard Pleine Nature.

On your path...



Gourdouze (A)

Slash-and-burn (B)

The formation of Mont Lozère (C)

All useful information

Advices

For experienced hikers. Considerable elevation gain. Steep section after the rocks of Trenze. Hike not to be undertaken in fog. 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. Access to the ridges of the rocks of Trenze prohibited for mountain-bikes.

How to come ?

Access

Take the D998 to Vialas

Advised parking

Vialas car park

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 office Des Cévennes au mont-Lozère, Vialas

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/>

On your path...



Gourdouze (A)

In the 14th century, this village was a priory of Castagnols parish. In 1906 all its thatched roofs burned down. Parts of the village were bought by a private individual in the 1960s who greatly modified them. It subsequently became the property of the Cévennes National Park, which sold 250 hectares back to a Mont Lozère livestock cooperative: their herds maintain the space. The cooperative manages 1,200 hectares at Mas Camargues and Gourdouze. These uplands receive sheep and cattle herds from 15 May to 15 November.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



Slash-and-burn (B)

This technique consists of clearing weeds and shrubs using fire: the fire is utilised to get rid of broom, especially in places that a motorised shredder cannot access. Slash-and burn is carried out every 4 to 5 years in a zone chosen by the farmer. Over larger areas, it is supervised by the fire brigade. In the 19th century, 100,000 sheep migrated to summer pastures here (transhumance) and joined the plateau herds, leaving no room for broom. As soon as the meadows are no longer grazed, they are colonised by broom, then shrubs, then forest. These open spaces are due to human activity (clearing) to allow herds to graze on grass. Grazing prevents the spontaneous growth of shrubs and any generalised invasion of forest.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



The formation of Mont Lozère (C)

This ancient massif consists of granite which, as magma, was pushed up from the depths of the Earth to its crust, through the schist. Slow cooling caused fractures, called joints, which allow water to infiltrate deep into the rock and alter it. This crystalline rock, which is composed of mica, quartz and feldspath, erodes slowly under the action of rain and frost, creating the rounded shapes that are characteristic of Mont Lozère.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas