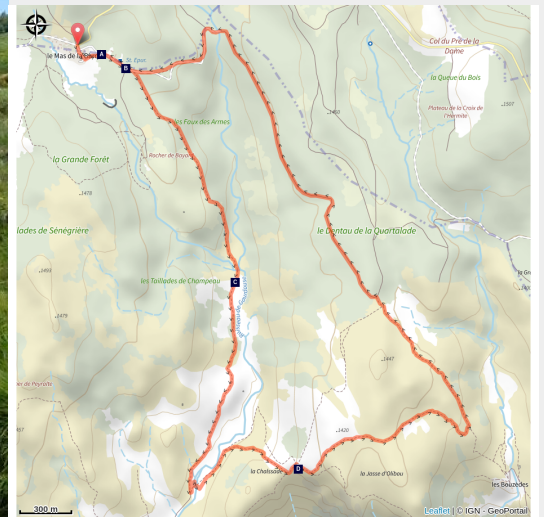


Bayardet

Mont Lozère - Pont de Montvert - Sud Mont Lozère



Descente sur Gourdouze (© Nathalie Thomas)



Discover the Gourdouze valley with its remarkable views.

On this walk you encounter a variety of natural environments, from granite block fields to wetlands, from short-grass prairies to a broom heath with scattered gentian and forests of crooked beech trees. This is a pleasant path offering views over the open landscape onto the Gard Cévennes as well as multi-coloured scenes throughout the seasons.

Useful information

Practice : Hiking on foot

Duration : 3 h

Length : 9.8 km

Trek ascent : 299 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Loop

Themes : Architecture and village, Fauna and flora, History and culture

Trek

Departure : Mas de la Barque

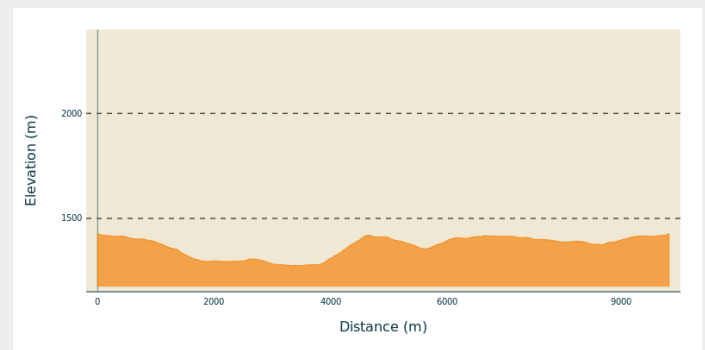
Arrival : Mas de la Barque

Markings :  Yellow waymarks

Cities : 1. Pont de Montvert - Sud Mont Lozère

2. Vialas

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1275 m Max elevation 1426 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:

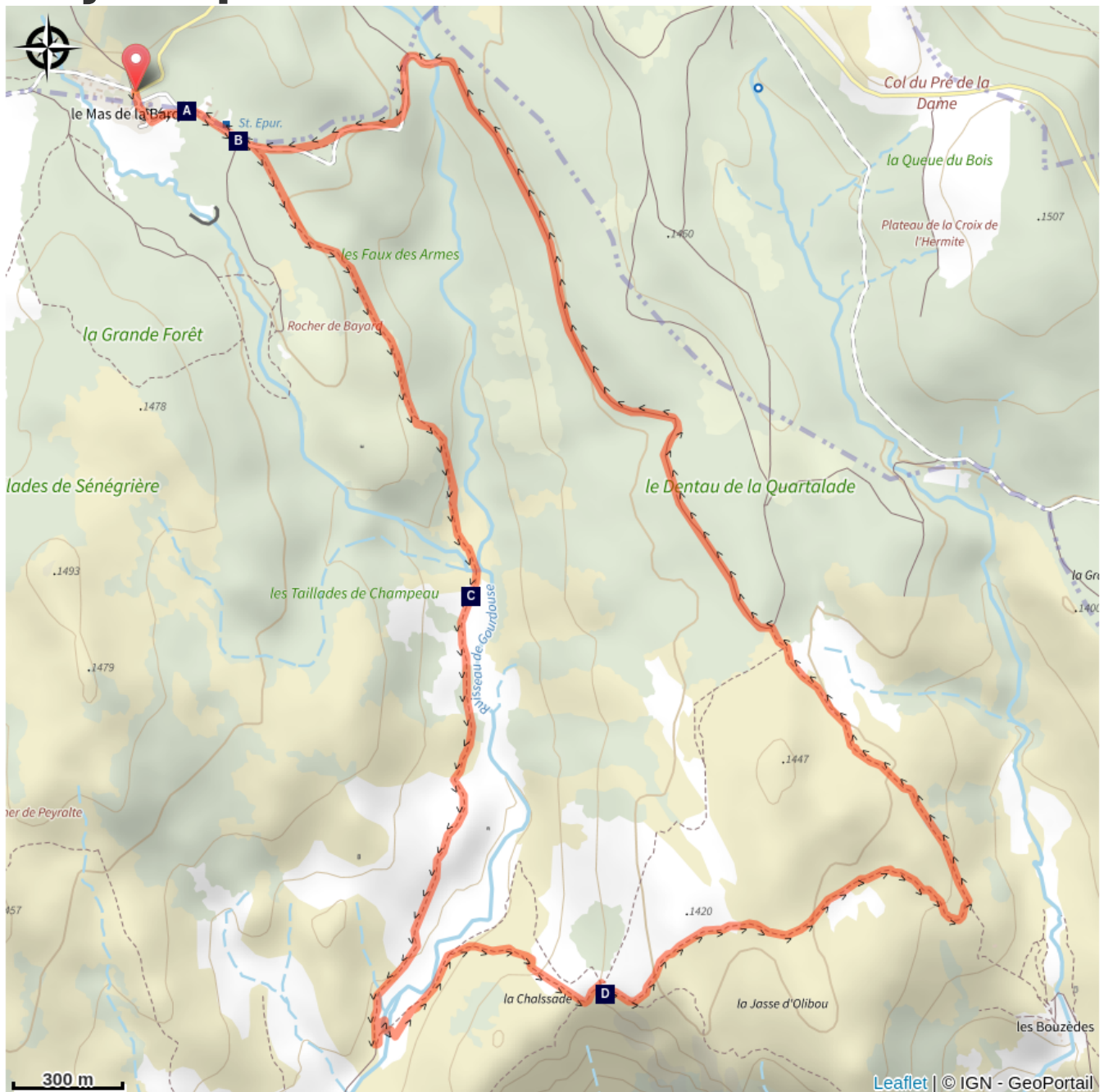
From “***Mas de la Barque***”, make for “***Les Écuries du Mas de la Barque***”, then “***Rochers de la Barque***” 2x. Then head to “***Les Faux des Armes***”, “***La Chassalde***”.

Leave the track and turn left (GR®68) towards “***La Jasse d'Olibou***”, “***Les Bouzèdes***”.


Go back uphill to “***Bouos d'Hommes***”, “***La Roche Fendue***”, “***Sous la roche Fendue***” 2x, “***Gardione***” 2x, “***Rochers de la Barque***” 2x, “***Les Écuries du Mas de la Barque***”, “***Mas de la Barque***”.

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

On your path...



Le Mas de La Barque (A)
Sphagnum moss (C)

 The mysterious boat (B)
Slash-and-burn (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

NB: This walk crosses rivers and brooks (difficult in times of flooding) as well as pastureland with herds (dogs must be kept on a leash). Do not attempt this walk 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.

How to come ?

Access

From Génolhac, take the D382 towards Villefort, then the D66 to Mas de la Barque.

Advised parking

Car park at Mas de la Barque

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, Génolhac

Place du Colombier, 30450 Génolhac

contact@cevennes-tourisme.fr

Tel : 04 66 61 09 48

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



Tourism office Des Cévennes au mont-Lozère, Vialas

info@cevennes-montlozere.com

Tel : 04 66 45 81 94

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



Tourism office Mont-Lozère, Villefort

43, Place du Bosquet, 48800 Villefort

contact@destination-montlozere.fr

Tel : 04 66 46 87 30

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



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 Mas de La Barque (A)

Le Mas de La Barque was only a forester's house at the end of the 20th century. From the 1960s onwards, it was frequented by children's ski clubs and then by families from the Gard on the weekend. During the week, the association "Union pour l'Animation de la Grange" organised field trips, heritage classes and theme days open to all. A costly infrastructure was gradually built (buildings, ski lifts, snow canons), then partly demolished again. Today, as part of an overall programme of reclassifying the site, it has been developed for tourism (cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, dog-sledding, etc.) and is run by a semi-public company. The resort offers outdoor activities in summer as well as in winter.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



The mysterious boat (B)

Have you noticed the strange rock shaped like a boat (barque)? Is that what gave the hamlet its name? Alternatively, in the local patois, a berque is a gap in the mountain. So: Mas de la Barque or Mas de la Berque?

Mas de la Barque is part of the municipality of Vialas and borders the forest of Gourdouze. The estate of the Priory of Gourdouze, to which the forest once belonged, was declared government property during the French Revolution in 1789, before being sold to pay the state's debts.

Attribution : © Biotope



Sphagnum moss (C)

You will be crossing wetlands where sphagnum moss lives, whose colour ranges from yellowish green to blood-red. Without them, the role of peatbogs would be seriously compromised. Once dead, they constitute the mainstay of peat and limit the establishment of competitors. They function like sponges, retaining a great deal of water and asphyxiating the roots of other plants. Their presence is a sign that the peatland is in good health; it facilitates the growth of species of great heritage interest, such as the sundew, cranberry, bog-rosemary, etc. Unfortunately, these are fragile and sensitive to crushing, so please stay on the path and get off your bike.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



Slash-and-burn (D)

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