Les dolmens de l’Ismaël

Piémont cévenol nord

Reboul (© O.Pagès)

Discover a necropolis, then climb to Saint-Sebastian’s Chapel for a beautiful view.

Useful information

Practice : Hiking on foot

Duration : 3 h

Length : 9.2 km

Trek ascent : 299 m

Difficulty : Medium

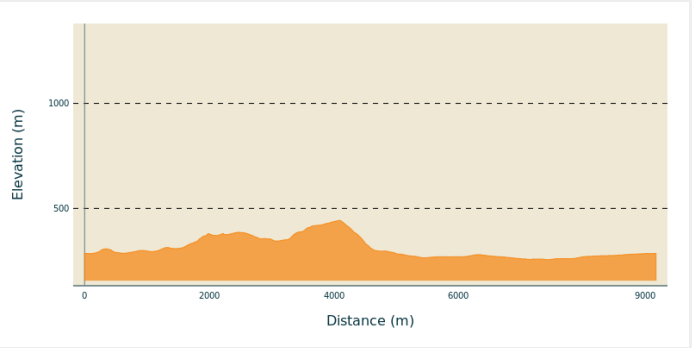
Type : Loop

Themes : Architecture and village, Fauna and flora, History and culture, Transports en commun

Trek

Departure : Courry
Arrival : Courry
Markings : Yellow waymarks
Cities : 1. Courry
2. Gagnières
3. Saint-Paul-le-Jeune

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 256 m Max elevation 443 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: Starting at **"COURRY"**, follow **"PIERRE MORTE"** via **"Croix de Parens"**, **"La Courpatière"**, **"Les Cayrades"**, **"L'Aulanet"**, **"Les Rivières"**, **"Les Thomases"** and **"Le Pouchanne"**. Then head for **"CHAPELLE ST-SÉBASTIEN"** and **"Plateau St-Sébastien"**. Go back down towards **"COURRY"** via **"La Tourre"**, **"Les Plannes"** and **"Les Chênes"** to reach **"DOLMENS DE L'ISMAËL"**. Continue to **"Les Mijoulets"**, **"Les Usclades"**, from where you can do a short return trip to the educational dolmen, then take **"Chemin de la Transhumance"** and return to **"COURRY"** via **"Croix de Parens"**.

This hike is taken from the guidebook **Cévennes Haute Vallée de la Cèze**, published by the Communauté de communes Cèze Cévennes as part of the collection Espaces Naturels Gardois and the label Gard Pleine Nature.

On your path...

Courry (A)

St Sebastian’s Chapel (B)

Cade (prickly juniper) (C)

All useful information

⚠ Advices

Make sure your equipment is appropriate for the day’s weather conditions. Take enough water, wear sturdy shoes and put on a hat. Please close all gates and barriers behind you.

How to come ?

Transports

Bus stop: Close to La croix de Parens
liO is the regional public transport service of the Occitanie/ Pyrénées – Méditerranée region. It facilitates everyone’s movements by prioritising public transport. For more information, call 08 10 33 42 73 or go to www.laregion.fr

Access

From St-Ambroix, take the D 904 past St-Brès, then the D 304 to Courry.

Advised parking

Mairie (town hall)

Information desks

Tourism office CezeCévennes, Bessèges
14 rue de la République, 30160 Bessèges

ot.besseges@gmail.com
Tel : 04 66 25 08 60
https://www.tourisme-ceze-cevennes.com/

Tourism office Cèze-Cévennes Saint-Ambroix
Place de l'ancien Temple, 30500 Saint-Ambroix

ot.stambroix@gmail.com
Tel : 04 66 24 33 36
https://www.tourisme-ceze-cevennes.com/

Source

CC Céze Cévennes

http://www.ceze-cevennes.fr/

Parc national des Cévennes

http://www.cevennes-parcnational.fr/

On your path...

Courry (A)

It is difficult to tell the history of Courry at the time of the Camisard War, the archives having been destroyed in a fire in 1973. However, oral tradition includes an anecdote that made Courry famous in the late 18th century. Abbot Murjas brought back from Italy an infallible recipe for an omelette that cured rabies. Once the omelette had gained a reputation for efficacy, people came from very far away to eat it. It was extremely salty, and its secret was the three herbs it contained. But the remedy was only effective on one condition: to drink nothing for the three following days! This was very hard in Courry, where the weather is so hot that people say that “even snakes die of thirst”!

Attribution : © S.M.

St Sebastian’s Chapel (B)

There is still a yearly pilgrimage to St-Sebastian’s Chapel, up the slope with its southern summer scents. The pilgrims do not come to ring the bells – which is reputed to make rain fall on this thirsty stony land – but to worship and bless the children.

The village escaped a powerful wave of the plague in 1720, which ravaged surrounding valleys. In 1722 the chapel was built on this promontory to thank God for His protection. Each year, the second Monday of September was dedicated to the pilgrimage. It has since been moved forward to the last Monday in August so as to take place during the school holidays.

Attribution : © JF.Raulet

Cade (prickly juniper) (C)

Juniper is a typical garrigue (arid shrubland) species which was used for centuries to produce oil by distilling its heartwood. Cade oil can treat dermatoses, kill parasites, heal sheep’s wounds and keep away flies. The cade oil producer would arrive in an area suggested by its owner and there build his own drystone hut (a capitelle) and oven. This oven demanded substantial know-how. Made of firebricks mortared with beaten clay, it had a vase shape about 1 ½ m high and was open at the top so that juniper branches could be thrown in. The distilled wood could be removed through a door at the bottom. The oil ran out from under the door. About 50 cm from this vase, the oilmaker would build a drystone wall, the circular space inside it being the hearth. The whole construction would then be covered in soil to make it airtight: a molehill with a diameter of 6 m!

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