

Saint-Flour valley

Vallées cévenoles - Le Pompidou



Le Pompidou et les corniches des Cévennes (© Olivier Prohin)



This is a contact zone between schist and limestone, with a picturesque viewpoint onto the Vallée Française and the characteristic limestone walls and schist roofs of its buildings.

Zone de contact entre schiste et calcaire, avec un beau point de vue sur la vallée Française, marquée par des édifices aux murs de calcaire et aux toits en lauzes en schiste.

Useful information

Practice : Hiking on foot

Duration : 2 h

Length : 4.9 km

Trek ascent : 271 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Loop

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

Trek

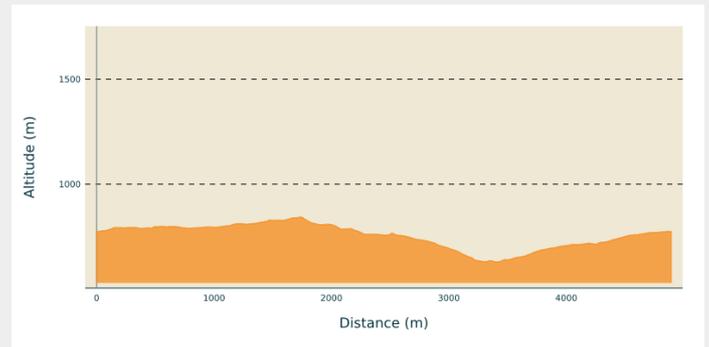
Departure : Le Pompidou: square by the community hall (Salle des fêtes)

Arrival : Le Pompidou: square by the community hall (Salle des fêtes)

Markings :  Yellow waymarks

Cities : 1. Le Pompidou

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 629 m Max elevation 843 m

Start from the square in front of the community hall (Salle des fêtes).

- 1) Take the lane, then turn left to join the path that goes up to the Col de Tartabissac pass.
- 2) 50 m before you get to the pass, take a path on the right that goes down to the Maison de la Roquette. Turn left onto the D 62. 300 m further, leave the road to take a path on the right that goes downhill to La Coste.
- 3) At La Coste, turn right onto the road for 300 m and go uphill on a zigzagging path to the church of Saint-Flour du Pompidou.
- 4) Join the road that goes uphill to the village of Le Pompidou.

On your path...



 Le Pompidou (A)

 Contact (C)

 Saint-Flour du Pompidou (E)

 Small buildings (B)

 La Coste (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

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 Florac, to St-Laurent-de-Trèves on the D 907 and D 983, then to Le Pompidou on the D 9.

Advised parking

Below the mairie (town hall) / post office

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 Des Cévennes au mont-Lozère, Sainte-Croix-Vallée-Française

Mairie, 48110 Sainte-Croix-Vallée-Française

info@cevennes-montlozere.com

Tel : 04 66 45 81 94

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



Source



CC des Cévennes au Mont Lozère

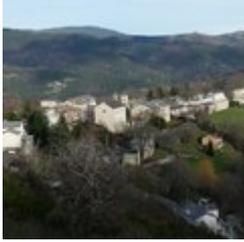
<http://www.cevennes-mont-lozere.fr/>



Parc national des Cévennes

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

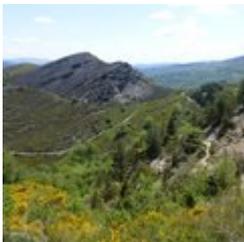
On your path...



🏰 Le Pompidou (A)

Le Pompidou, like Saint-Roman de Tousque, owes its development to its location on the Corniche des Cévennes road. From the 17th century onwards, this former mule track carried substantial trade, with mule cart drivers bringing up salt, wine and dried fish from southern France to the Gévaudan, taking grains and cloth down from the uplands, and exporting the silk and chestnuts of the Cévennes. You can still see two buildings, the former inn (Le Cheval Blanc) and the Chapeau Rouge staging post, where travellers changed carriage horses.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



Small buildings (B)

The small buildings you see dotted here and there are jasses (from jas: place where livestock sleeps), sheepfolds of times gone by. There used to be at least 20 between Tartabissac and Bézuc. From the first warm days to 6 December, livestock would spend the night here, and their owners would come up during the day to watch them. An old saying goes, “No livestock in the chestnut groves before the sixth of December”. 6 December was the date of the fair in Florac when the local chestnuts were sold. Today Bézuc hosts 200 sheep for 8 months of the year.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



🌐 Contact (C)

At the Col de Tartabisac pass, there is a clear limit between the two bedrocks: on the left, the limestone plateau; on the right, a schist slope. The two rocks are in contact at a geological fault. A layer of very wet sandstone sits at the level of the meadows, at the foot of the limestone. This is where the water that has infiltrated via the thick layers of the Can plateau re-emerges.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



🏰 La Coste (D)

The architecture in La Coste is neat, with beautiful stone door frames and window frames and rounded corner stones. Renowned stone carvers and masons came from this Cévenol hamlet.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



Saint-Flour du Pompidou (E)

The architecture of this handsome Romanesque church makes good use of the two local bedrocks (limestone walls, schist tilestones on the roof). Saint-Flour is believed to have been created by the Benedictine monks who sought refuge in the Cévennes from the 11th to 12th centuries. During the Camisard War, the vicar took refuge in Le Pompidou, which had a garrison of which St-Flour was an outpost. During the night of 26 and 27 January 1703, the Camisard leader Castanet and his lieutenant Jean Valmalle, known as The Rose, attacked Le Pompidou. The church and priory at Saint-Flour were set alight. During the French Revolution, the priory was sold to an inhabitant of Le Pompidou as the property of the French state. The church became a grange, and the presbytery was closed. In 1986, Saint-Flour was added to the supplementary list of historical monuments; in summer it is a concert venue.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas