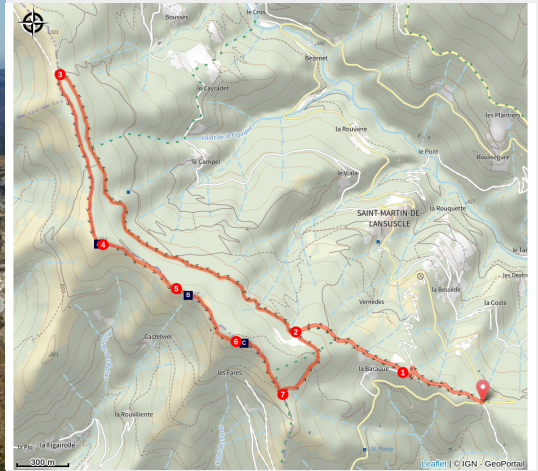


Castelviel

Vallées cévenoles - Saint-Martin-de-Lansuscle



Sommet de Castelviel (nathalie.thomas)



This ridge path offers exceptional panoramic views over the Trabassac valley, the Corniche des Cévennes and Mont Aigoual: a singular area, where history and landscape merge!

Ce sentier de crête offre des panoramas d'exception sur la vallée de Trabassac, la corniche des Cévennes et le mont Aigoual. Un lieu singulier où histoire et paysages se confondent !

Useful information

Practice : Hiking on foot

Duration : 3 h 30

Length : 8.4 km

Trek ascent : 388 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Loop

Themes : Forest, History and culture

Trek

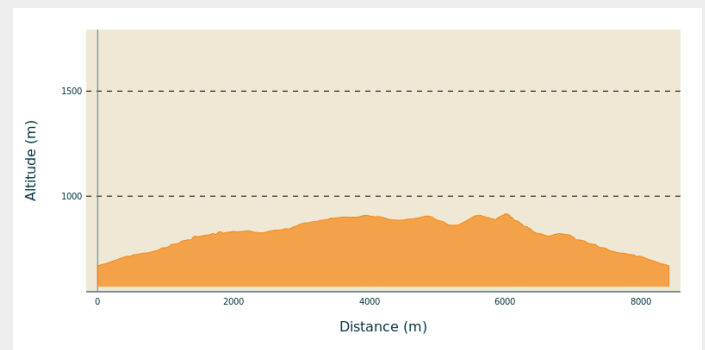
Departure : At the pass 2km before Saint-Martin de Lansuscle (D 28)

Arrival : At the pass 2km before Saint-Martin de Lansuscle (D 28)

Markings :  Yellow waymarks

Cities : 1. Saint-Martin-de-Lansuscle
2. Molezon
3. Sainte-Croix-Vallée-Française

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 669 m Max elevation 916 m

From the parking area, cross the road and take the forestry track opposite.

- 1) After 600 m, take the track on the right. You walk below pines and clear-cut areas.
- 2) At the intersection, take the track on the right; at the second intersection, continue straight ahead.
- 3) Take the leftmost track and cross over to the other side of the ridge.
- 4) After 1.1 km, the track turns slightly left. Then it changes into a path and veers right (steep slope). Walk alongside the ridge. Be careful: some sections are vertiginous and schist bedrock might be slippery when it is raining.
- 5) When you arrive at the highest point, take the path on the left to another high point.
- 6) Continue for 20 metres, until you see the path again (steep section on schist).
- 7) At the intersection, turn left. At the second intersection, continue straight ahead. Finally, at the third intersection, turn right onto the first track of this walk. You will reach the parking area after 1.4 km.

On your path...



Contrasting vegetation (A)



The raven (C)

The mystery of the shaped rock (B)

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 Sainte-Croix-Vallée-Française, take the D28 towards Saint-Martin-de-Lansuscle. After 5 km, at the pass, park in the parking area on the right.

Advised parking

Pass between Sainte-Croix Vallée Française and Saint-Martin de Lansuscle (D 28)

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...



Contrasting vegetation (A)

The asymmetry between the two sides of the valley is marked. On the north slope, both deciduous and coniferous trees have established themselves, while the south-west slope is covered in heath and holm oaks. The holm oaks grow in the smallest dip where a bit of soil has collected, all the way up to the ridge at an altitude of 800 m (normally they are not found above 500m). The warm microclimate of these rocky zones, together with their poor and dry soil that excludes most other trees, has enabled the holm oak to extend its natural range.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas

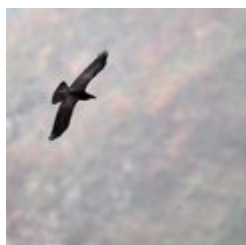


The mystery of the shaped rock (B)

On the summit, a rectangular base carved into the rock may once have been the foundations of a structure built from perishable materials or even from stone. A similar base can be found further down the slope. Tradition dates these to the Hundred Years War (1337-1439). The insecurity that reigned at the time incited people to organise collective means of defence. The establishment of networks of (flame or smoke) signals from towers or elevated spots was encouraged. The lords of Anduze are said to have organised such a network from Anduze to Florac, with Castelveil Rock as a link in that chain.

The story also goes that these shapes are the foundations for the pillars of a bridge linking the Serre des Potences, built by fairies who were tired of having to cross the valley to meet up. However, digging soon struck them as being even more tiring than walking!

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



The raven (C)

You may spot a raven here. This member of the crow family, whose wing span exceeds 1 metre, is a mountain bird; its presence is linked to rocky areas. It builds its nest in a cliff that is inaccessible to predators. It hovers like birds of prey and can even fly upside down. You can recognise this carrion-eater by its black plumage and its deep call.

Attribution : Régis Descamps
