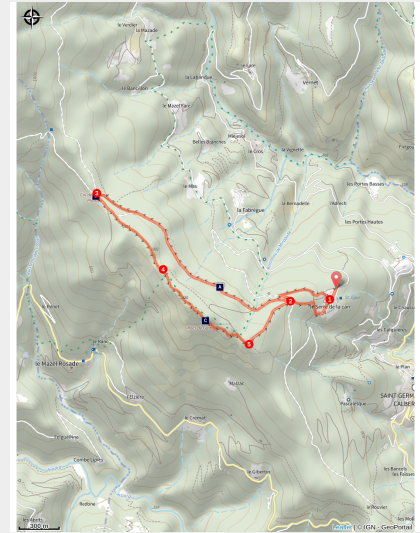


The Rocks of Galta

Vallées cévenoles - Saint-Germain-de-Calberte



Rocs de Galta (Nathalie Thomas)



On the former King's road between St-Germain-de-Calberte and Barre-des-Cévennes, you walk to the ridge of the Rocks of Galta for beautiful views onto the valley of St-Martin-de-Lansuscle and the Cévennes, from Mont Lozère to the summit of Mont Aigoual.

En empruntant la route royale entre St-Germain-de-Calberte et Barre-des-Cévennes, vous rejoignez la crête des rocs de Galta et découvrez de beaux points de vue sur la vallée de St-Martin-de-Lansuscle et sur les Cévennes, du mont Lozère au sommet de l'Aigoual.

Useful information

Practice : Hiking on foot

Duration : 2 h 30

Length : 5.4 km

Trek ascent : 229 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Loop

Themes : History and culture, Water and geology

Trek

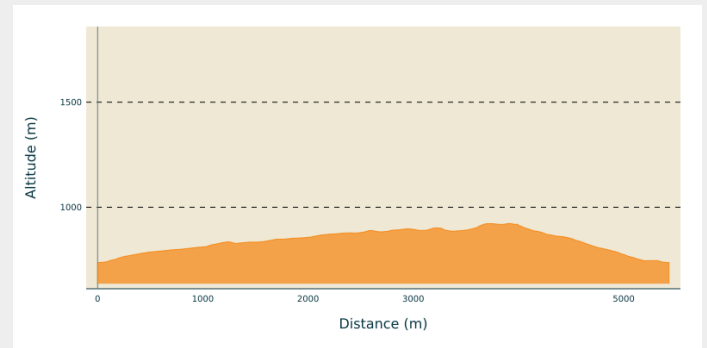
Departure : Holiday village "Lou Serre de la Can"

Arrival : Holiday village "Lou Serre de la Can"

Markings :  Yellow waymarks

Cities : 1. Saint-Germain-de-Calberte

Altimetric profile

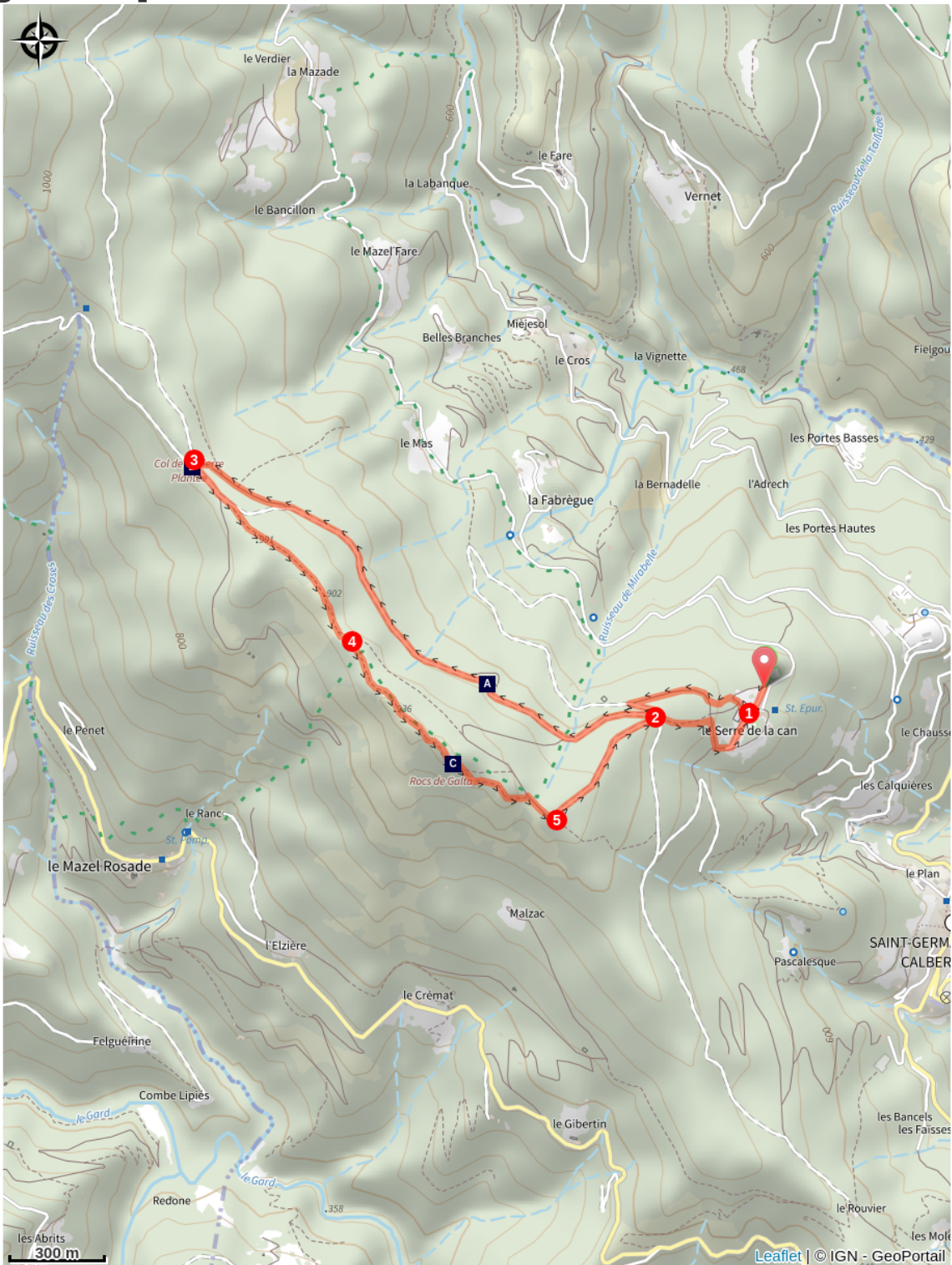


Min elevation 736 m Max elevation 923 m

From the car park at the holiday village:

- 1) take the path that goes uphill into the chestnut forest;
- 2) at the fork, follow the large track (the former King's road) which goes to the right;
- 3) at the Col de la Pierre Plantée pass, take the track on the left that is parallel to the King's road;
- 4) follow the path on the right that runs along the ridge;
- 5) go downhill below the ridge to return to your starting-point.

On your path...



▲ The King's road (A)

▲ Menhir (standing stone) (B)

● Galta (C)

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

Caution: the rocky ridge is slippery underfoot when wet. 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 St-Germain-de-Calberte, take the road that goes uphill opposite the church towards Le Serre de La Can ("village vacances")

Advised parking

Holiday village 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'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, Saint-Germain-de-Calberte

Village, 48370 Saint-Germain-de-Calberte

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...



🚩 The King's road (A)

You walk past a little building that used to house the roadmender's tools. The path you take is the former King's road between St-Germain-de-Calberte and Barre-des-Cévennes, which was rebuilt in the early 17th century on the orders of the Intendant of Languedoc, tasked with repressing the Camisard uprising. The King's roads allowed royal troops to penetrate into areas where movement was very difficult. This road is built on supporting walls and, in some sections, carved into the rock.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



🚩 Menhir (standing stone) (B)

At the pass is a standing stone or menhir, a schist slab 1 ½ m high and 80 cm wide, which has circular depressions known as cup marks and carved rods. Many vestiges attest to the presence of humans in the schist valleys of the Cévennes as of 3,000 BC: tombs, menhirs, carved marks. Some 15 menhirs have been inventoried in the Gardon valleys. They are not grouped together but located on ridges or at passes. Their meaning remains very unclear: landmarks for orientation, symbols linked to worship, territorial markers, etc.?

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



🌐 Galta (C)

The name Galta is believed to come from the Indo-European root Kar, gal, meaning rock, stone. Schists are former sediments stemming from the erosion of mountains. In the Cévennes, these sediments are about 500 million years old and were probably deposited on the edges of a former ocean that separated the north and south of what is now France. About 350 million years ago, these sediments were buried at depth and subjected to high pressure and temperatures of around 500° C. This turned them into schists, made up of new minerals: feldspaths, micas and quartz. This transformation is associated with deformation and called metamorphism. Water has run off the impermeable schist bedrock and carved out deep furrows, creating one of France's most rugged regions. The ridges are orientated along a northwest-southeast axis.

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas