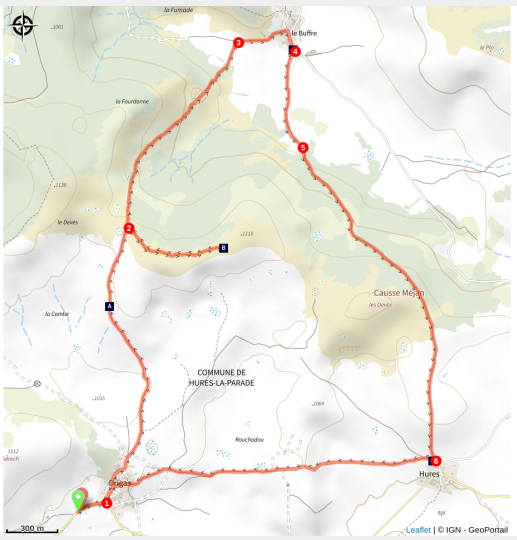
The three hamlets

Causses Gorges - Hures-la-Parade

Le village de Drigas (nathalie.thomas)



This walk at the limit between wooded Causse and bare Causse has panoramic views over the limestone plateau.

This ancestral track is partly on a draille (drovers' road); the built heritage showcases history from the Neolithic to today: a protohistoric enclosure, jasses (overnight pens for livestock), lavognes (man-made watering-holes for livestock), a cross... there is also a strong presence of farming, which maintains the environment.

Useful information

Practice : Hiking on foot

Duration : 3 h

Length : 10.5 km

Trek ascent : 271 m

Difficulty : Easy

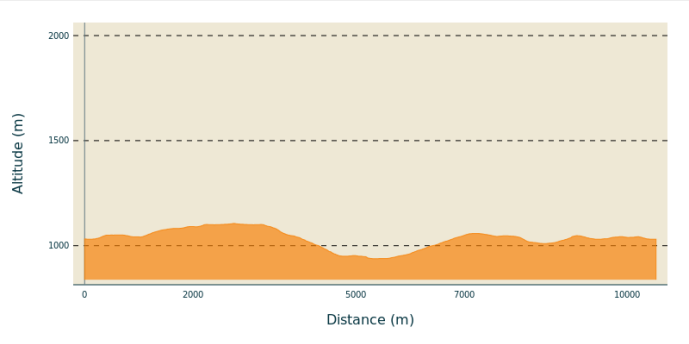
Type : Loop

Themes : Architecture and village, History and culture

Trek

Departure : Drigas
Arrival : Drigas
Markings : Yellow waymarks
Cities : 1. Hures-la-Parade

Altimetric profile

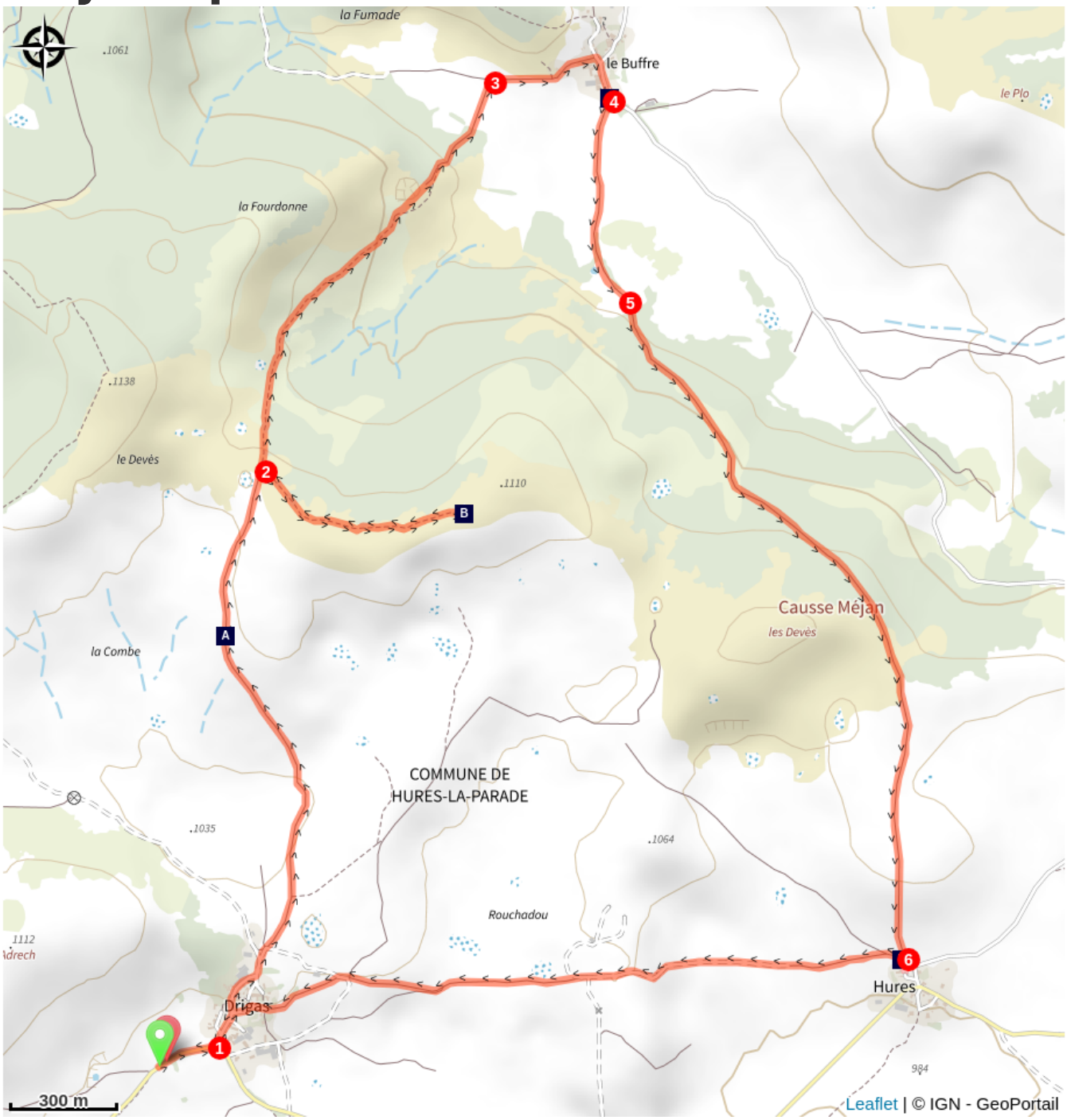


Min elevation 938 m Max elevation 1106 m

From the parking area, take the road to reach the hamlet of Drigas.

1) Turn left and go straight up into the hamlet. As you leave the hamlet, continue straight ahead on the track that goes gently uphill to a gate.
2) At this little pass, take a path to the right that leads to the protohistoric enclosure (you will need to retrace your steps to return).
3) Back at the pass, take the path opposite, which goes very slightly downhill towards Le Buffre.
4) As you leave the woods and the field, turn right onto the track to the hamlet of Le Buffre. Then turn right and, when you reach the road, cross it, walking straight ahead to the cross.
5) At the cross, leave the road and continue straight ahead on the track (draille). Pass the watering-hole on its left.
6) 100 m after the watering-hole, the path moves up the slope of the hill on the right and goes back downhill to Hures.
7) Go through the fence and take the track on the right uphill to the quarry, cross the quarry and continue straight ahead on the track to return to Drigas.

On your path…



The Causse landscape (A)
Le Buffre cross (C)
Protohistoric enclosure of Rode (B)
The church of Hures (D)

All useful information

Advices

This walk is not advisable in hot weather. 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 Meyrueis, on the D 986, then the D 47 to Drigas

Advised parking

Park just before you enter Drigas, on the western side

Information desks

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

Source

Agence d'Attractivité Touristique Gorges Causses Cévennes

http://www.cevennes-gorges-du-tarn.com

Parc national des Cévennes

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

On your path...

The Causse landscape (A)

As you move uphill, and more generally throughout the walk, you will notice the impact of human activity on the landscape: drystone walls built to delimit plots and along paths; clapas (piles of stones) indicating the exits from fields and routes, etc. An emblematic element of the Causse landscape, dolines (or scotchs in Occitan) are small depressions with deep soils, in which grains and forage plants are grown.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas

Protohistoric enclosure of Rode (B)

No lasting settlement of the plateau is known before this enclosure -only incursions by hunters following their prey. It was during the Iron Age that humans became sedentary. Soundings of the enclosure walls at Rode have revealed a dwelling with a hearth, ceramics and the contours of meals, including a large quantity of horse remains. The rectangular buildings seem to have backed onto the ramparts, leaving free space at the centre of the enclosure, possibly to shelter the livestock. The elliptical ramparts, 110 m long and 95 m wide, are originally believed to have been 4 m high.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas

Le Buffre cross (C)

This is one of the oldest and most handsome crosses in Lozère. On its cylindrical pedestal (12th c.), which is set on three steps, two persons face each other on either side of a holy water basin representing a human face. The basin is carved into the pedestal and also projects from it. The more recent actual cross is believed to date from the 18th century. Le Buffre cross is one of many that dot the Saint Guilhem route, to both guide and encourage pilgrims.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas

The church of Hures (D)

The church was founded in the 11th century by the Benedictine monks of Sainte-Enimie to expand their arable land. It was built in four stages:
- The choir in the early and the nave in the late 12th century,
- the right-hand chapel in the 14th century,
- the left-hand chapel in the 18th century.

Each enlargement of the building corresponded to an increase in the Causse population. The nave has a beautiful window. To the right of the entrance is a funereal recess, which probably belonged to a local dignitary and in which were deposited a number of bones removed from the buried body.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas