

# From gorge to Causse in the land of the vultures (Day 2).

Causses Gorges - Le Rozier



Corniches du Méjean (© Alain Lagrave)



*From Le Rozier, you walk uphill onto the Causse Méjean and admire the handsome views onto the Jonte gorge, before crossing the plateau via a Scots pine forest to reach the hamlet of Rieisse.*

The starting-point of the trail, on the cliff edge, is overlooked by two monoliths: the Vase de Sèvre and the Vase de Chine. It also crosses the site of the Arches of Saint-Pierre, with its natural arches and some archaeological remains, which give it an unreal atmosphere. In Rieisse, you have the choice of admiring the panoramic views at the Roc des Hourtous.

## Useful information

Practice : Hiking on foot

Duration : 6 h

Length : 22.0 km

Trek ascent : 1162 m

Difficulty : Difficult



Type : Roaming

Themes : Agriculture and livestock farming, Architecture and village, Causses and Cévennes / UNESCO

# Trek

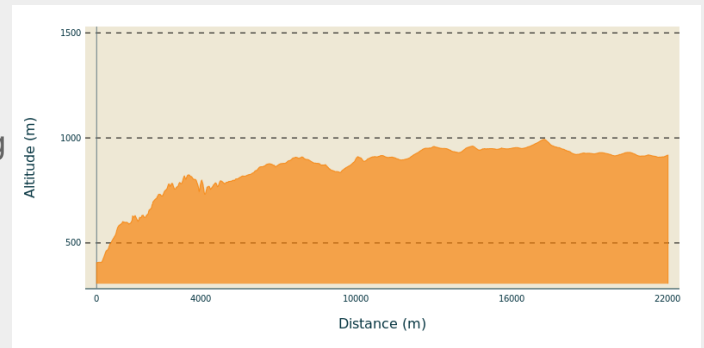
**Departure** : Le Rozier

**Arrival** : Rieisse

**Markings** :  GR (long-distance hiking path)  GRP (regional long-distance hiking path)

**Cities** : 1. Le Rozier  
2. Saint-Pierre-des-Tripiers  
3. Masegros Causses Gorges  
4. Hures-la-Parade  
5. La Malène

## Altimetric profile



Min elevation 406 m Max elevation 993 m

At the car park by the church in Le Rozier, go left towards the D 996 and take the path that goes uphill on the right towards the Rocher de Capluc – the GR 6 (waymarked white and red) – and joins up with the GR® de Pays.

1 – Leave the GR®6 for the GRP® on the right (waymarked yellow and red) which goes via the Jonte cliff edges.

2 – Take the track on the right that goes towards Cassagne (waymarked white and red again) and stay on it until you reach the path to the Arches of St-Pierre.

3 – Leave the track for the small path that crosses the arches and comes to a small road (waymarked white and red). Cross the road to reach the hamlet of La Viale.

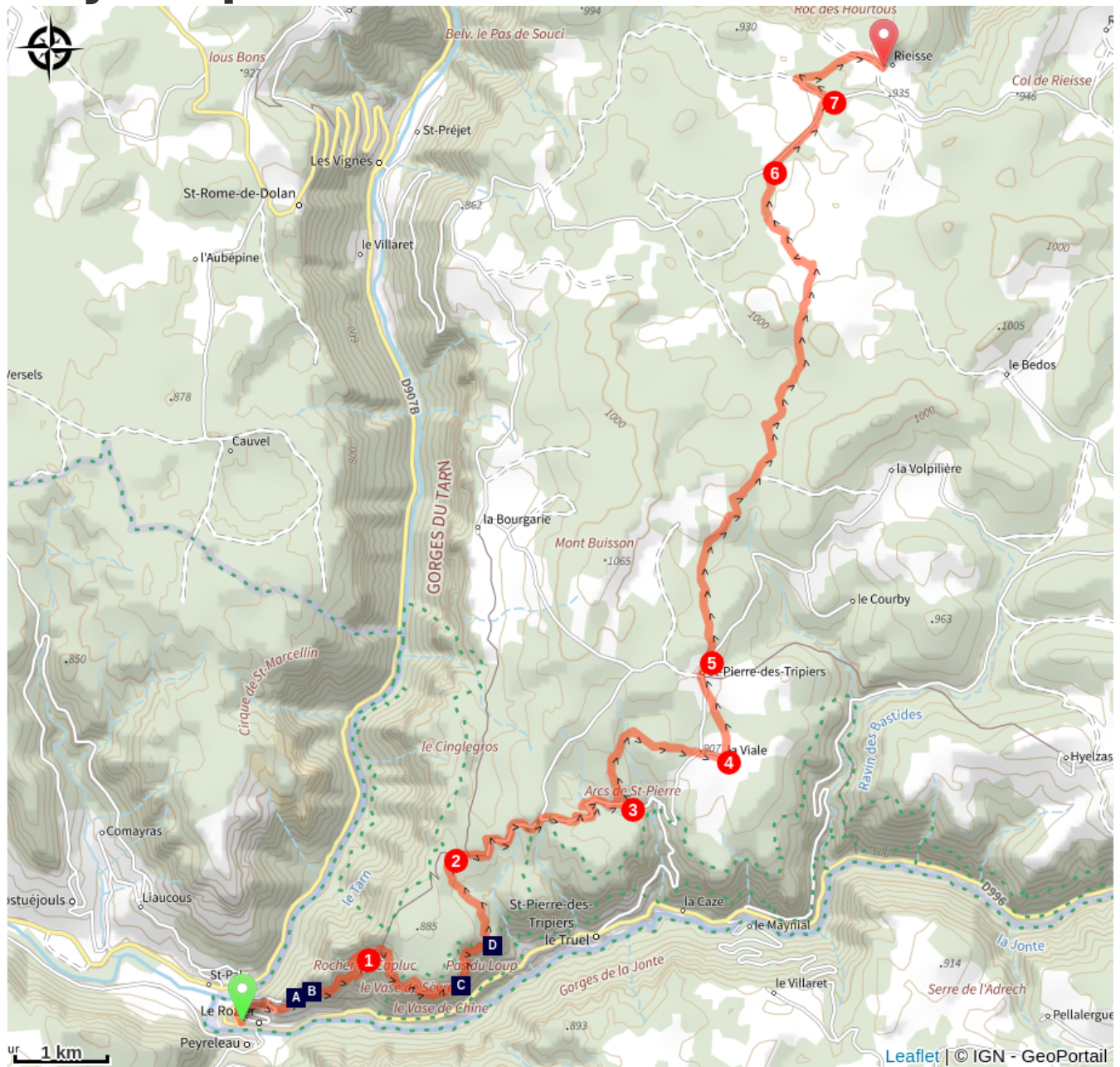
4 – Go left and uphill again to St-Pierre des Tripiers; go through the village passing in front of the church.

5 – As you leave the village, at the cross, turn left to follow variant #1 of the GRP®Tour du Causse Méjean (waymarked yellow and red).

6 – When you reach the D 16 road, turn right onto it for 1 km.

7 – Go left and then take an immediate right to reach the hamlet of Rieisse.

# On your path...



- ▲ Capluc (A)
- ▲ Balcon du vertige (vertigo balcony) (C)
- ▲ L'Homme-Mort (Dead Man's) Cave (E)

- ▲ Capluc and its terraces (B)
- ▲ Vultures (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.

**Caution:** patous (livestock guard dogs) on the plateau between La Volpilière and Rieisse! Seek advice on how to behave near these dogs from tourist offices and National Park information centres.

## How to come ?

### Transports

Parking route de Capluc (Capluc road car park)

**Bus line "Florac Ste-Enimie Le Rozier"**, every day in July and August  
[https://lio.laregion.fr/IMG/pdf/oc-1903-fhbus-48-258-3v\\_bd\\_04\\_.pdf](https://lio.laregion.fr/IMG/pdf/oc-1903-fhbus-48-258-3v_bd_04_.pdf)

**Bus line Millau Peyreleau le Rozier Meyrueis**, all year  
[https://lio.laregion.fr/IMG/pdf/oc-1907-fhbus\\_12-215\\_4v\\_bd\\_04\\_.pdf](https://lio.laregion.fr/IMG/pdf/oc-1907-fhbus_12-215_4v_bd_04_.pdf)

### Access

Le Rozier, on the D 996.

### Advised parking

Car park by the church in Le Rozier Car park by the Crédit Agricole cash machine

## **Information desks**

### **Tourism'house and national Parc at Florac**

Place de l'ancienne gare, N106, 48400  
Florac-trois-rivières

[info@cevennes-parcnational.fr](mailto:info@cevennes-parcnational.fr)

Tel : 04 66 45 01 14

<https://www.cevennes-gorges-du-tarn.com>



## **Source**

Maison du tourisme et du Parc national, Florac

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



Parc national des Cévennes

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



# On your path...

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## ⚠ Capluc (A)

Capluc was once a defensive and surveillance site, with a castle that (like many of the village's houses) no longer exists. Some of the houses were renovated once a track suitable for motor vehicles was opened to the hamlet. The name Capluc is believed to come from cap and luz, meaning head and light, thus symbolising the place illuminated by the first rays of the rising sun.

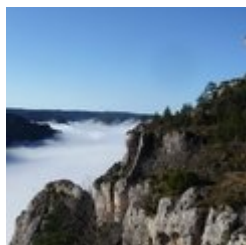
Attribution : nathalie.thomas

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## Capluc and its terraces (B)

As you leave Capluc, you become aware of how the site, which at first sight seems barren, has in fact been shaped by humans. All of this south-facing slope, which is protected by the tall dolomite cliffs, was farmed using terraces (grains, fruit trees, grapevines). Temperatures are so favourable that the most southern Mediterranean vegetation of the region grows here (narrow-leaved ash, jasmine, Montpellier maple, holm oak, etc.).

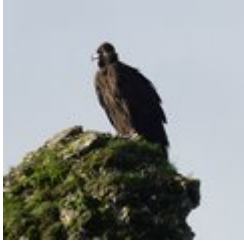
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## ⚠ Balcon du vertige (vertigo balcony) (C)

This site, almost 400m above the bed of the Jonte, deserves its name. It is the only spot on the walk from which you have such breathtaking views over the gorge. Opposite you is the Causse Noir, with a heavily fissured rock in the foreground, the Ranc del Pater, on which remain some wall sections of Saint Michael's hermitage (former château of Montorsier). The tall rectangular cliff on its right is known as Roc Fabié. If you lean forwards, you can see, from upstream to downstream, La Caze and Le Truel hamlets, and below you the Maison des Vautours (vulture belvedere), which was opened in 1998 and traces the local history of vultures.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



## Vultures (D)

You are close to the historic site where the griffon vulture was reintroduced from 1982 onwards. Since then, the cinereous vulture (1992) and the bearded vulture (2012) have also been reintroduced. The Egyptian vulture returned of its own accord in 1986. It nested locally in 1997, but it remains rare and very localised in this region. In the Mediterranean basin, the presence of vultures is associated with sheep farming and herd mortality.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas

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## L'Homme-Mort (Dead Man's) Cave (E)

In 1867 Dr Barthélémy Prunières and Prof Paul Broca discovered some 50 human skeletons from the Chalcolithic or Copper Age (2,200 to 1,800 BC) in this cavity with its almost round entrance. It was the first ever discovery in France of skulls bearing signs of trepanning-style lesions that were in the process of scarring over. Trepanning was carried out using a flint drill. The surgeon operated rather brutally to begin with, but once the cancellous bone had been penetrated, he seems to have drilled into the internal table of the skull bone more carefully. The individuals treated in this way were normally adults.

In some cases, where the skull had previously been staved in, the purpose was probably to relieve the injury.

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