

Bayardet, variant Trail #20v

Mont Lozère - Pont de Montvert - Sud Mont Lozère



Hêtraie du Mas de la Barque (© Olivier Prohin)



A magnificent trail through the Cévennes, with steep paths that roam through broom and across rivers, and sumptuous panoramas.

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Useful information

Practice : Foot race

Duration : 1 h 15

Length : 9.8 km

Trek ascent : 298 m

Difficulty : Very easy

Type : Loop

Trek

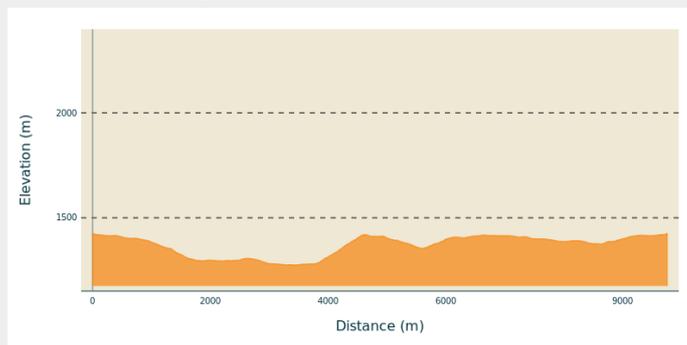
Departure : Mas de la Barque

Arrival : Mas de la Barque

Markings :  Trail PPN Mt Lozère 
Yellow waymarks

Cities : 1. Pont de Montvert - Sud Mont Lozère
2. Vialas

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1275 m Max elevation 1426 m

You start with a downhill section of about 4km on narrow and sometimes rocky paths – some peatbogs too, but nothing too technical. You will go through several cattle barriers, please remember to close them properly.

Once you have forked onto the GR ®68 long-distance hiking path, there is a bit of a climb, but the splendid panoramic views over the Cévennes more than make up for your efforts. The trail ends with 2 km of level ground on a pretty forest track.

A longer version, waymarked 20, lets you carry on to the impressive Le Trenze cliffs (18 km).

Follow the waymarks for trail #20v.

Signposts will guide you all along this route, as well as yellow painted waymarks. In the description below, the signposted place names and/or directions are given in ***bold italics*** between quotation marks:

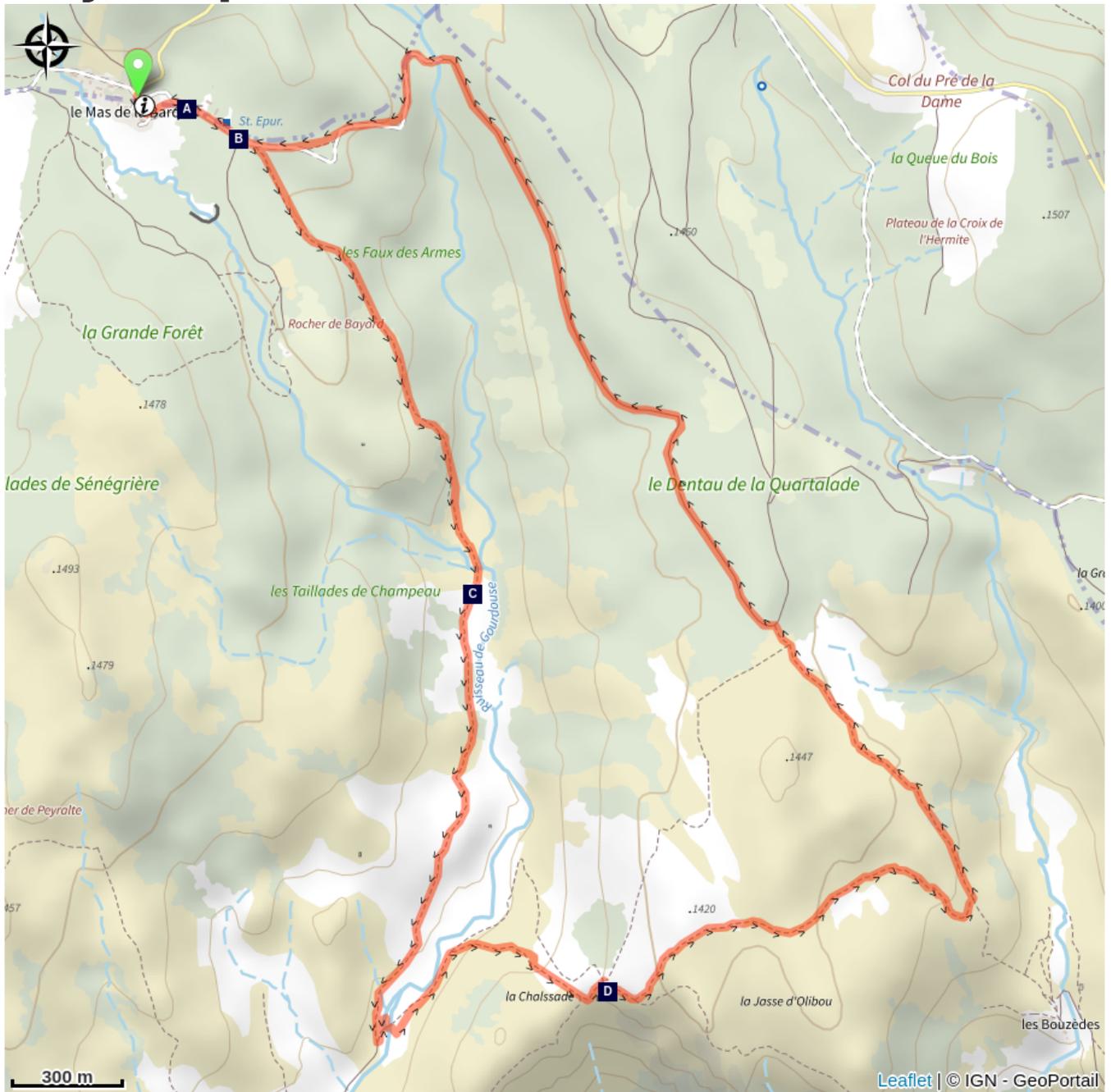
Starting at "***Mas de La Barque***", make for "***col de Montclar***" via "***Les écuries de Mas de La Barque***", "***Rochers de la barque***" (2x), "***Les faux des Armes***", "***La Chassalde***".

At "***La Chassalde***", go towards "***La jasse d'Olibou***".

Return to "***Mas de La Barque***" via "***Bouos d'homme***", "***La roche fendue***", "***Sous la roche fendue***", "***Gadione***" (2x), "***Rochers de la Barque***" (2x) and "***Les écuries du Mas de La Barque***".

This trail is taken from the guidebook **Mont Lozère - Pays des sources**, published by the Pôle de pleine nature du mont Lozère.

On your path...



-  Le Mas de La Barque (A)
-  Sphagnum moss (C)

-  The mysterious boat (B)
-  Slash-and-burn (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

Before committing yourself to a circuit, ensure that it is suitable for your activity level and ability. Remember that the weather changes quickly in the mountains. Please close all gates and barriers behind you. Stay on the marked path.

How to come ?

Access

From Villefort, on the D 66.
From Génolhac, on the D 362 then the D 66.

Advised parking

Mas de La Barque

Information desks

Le Mas de la Barque outdoor centre

lemasdelabarque@france48.com

Tel : 04 66 46 92 72

<https://www.lemasdelabarque.com/>



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/>



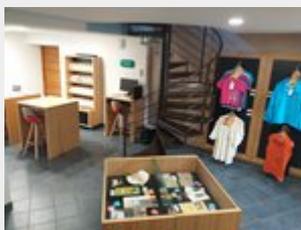
Tourism'house and national parc, Génolhac

Place du Colombier, 30450 Génolhac

contact@cevennes-tourisme.fr

Tel : 04 66 61 09 48

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



Tourism office Mont-Lozère, Villefort

43, Place du Bosquet, 48800 Villefort

contact@destination-montlozere.fr

Tel : 04 66 46 87 30

<https://www.destination-montlozere.fr/>



Source



CC des Cévennes au Mont Lozère

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



Parc national des Cévennes

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



Pôle pleine nature Mont Lozère

On your path...



🏠 Le Mas de La Barque (A)

Le Mas de La Barque was only a forester's house at the end of the 20th century. From the 1960s onwards, it was frequented by children's ski clubs and then by families from the Gard on the weekend. During the week, the association "Union pour l'Animation de la Grange" organised field trips, heritage classes and theme days open to all. A costly infrastructure was gradually built (buildings, ski lifts, snow canons), then partly demolished again. Today, as part of an overall programme of reclassifying the site, it has been developed for tourism (cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, dog-sledding, etc.) and is run by a semi-public company. The resort offers outdoor activities in summer as well as in winter.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



🚣 The mysterious boat (B)

Have you noticed the strange rock shaped like a boat (barque)? Is that what gave the hamlet its name? Alternatively, in the local patois, a berque is a gap in the mountain. So: Mas de la Barque or Mas de la Berque?

Mas de la Barque is part of the municipality of Vialas and borders the forest of Gourdouze. The estate of the Priory of Gourdouze, to which the forest once belonged, was declared government property during the French Revolution in 1789, before being sold to pay the state's debts.

Attribution : © Biotope



☁️ Sphagnum moss (C)

You will be crossing wetlands where sphagnum moss lives, whose colour ranges from yellowish green to blood-red. Without them, the role of peatbogs would be seriously compromised. Once dead, they constitute the mainstay of peat and limit the establishment of competitors. They function like sponges, retaining a great deal of water and asphyxiating the roots of other plants. Their presence is a sign that the peatland is in good health; it facilitates the growth of species of great heritage interest, such as the sundew, cranberry, bog-rosemary, etc. Unfortunately, these are fragile and sensitive to crushing, so please stay on the path and get off your bike.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



🕒 Slash-and-burn (D)

This technique consists of clearing weeds and shrubs using fire: the fire is utilised to get rid of broom, especially in places that a motorised shredder cannot access. Slash-and burn is carried out every 4 to 5 years in a zone chosen by the farmer. Over larger areas, it is supervised by the fire brigade. In the 19th century, 100,000 sheep migrated to summer pastures here (transhumance) and joined the plateau herds, leaving no room for broom. As soon as the meadows are no longer grazed, they are colonised by broom, then shrubs, then forest. These open spaces are due to human activity (clearing) to allow herds to graze on grass. Grazing prevents the spontaneous growth of shrubs and any generalised invasion of forest.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas