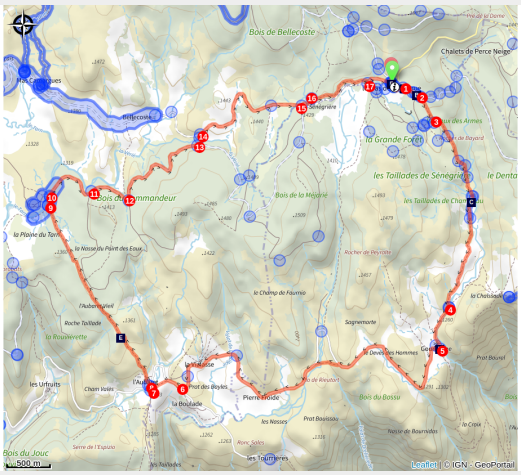
Gourdouze valley, variant Trail #21v

Mont Lozère



Le pont du Tarn (© Bruno Daversin - Parc National des Cévennes)



Une aventure au coeur du parc

The hamlet of Gourdouze, the Pont du Tarn bridge, the outdoor activity centre of Mas de la Barque: you go from one slice of heaven to the next! And the circuit is so varied that you won’t notice the kilometres you’re running – along pastures, in woods, through blockfields and grassy plains !

Useful information

Practice : Foot race

Duration : 2 h

Length : 17.8 km

Trek ascent : 415 m

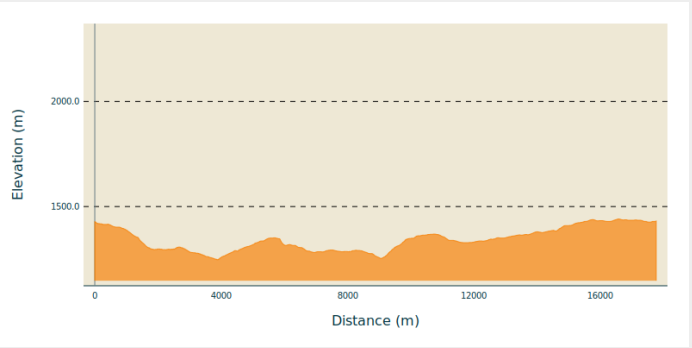
Difficulty : Medium

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 1247 m Max elevation 1441 m

The first part is downhill on a pleasant path, between undergrowth and wild pastures.
After arriving at the magnificent hamlet of Gourdouze, you follow a very runnable track for 5 km, in the middle of the Cévennes.
You then climb on a pretty path between rocky blockfields and grassy plains to the glorious Tarn bridge.
You return to the departure point on a more runnable track.

Follow the waymarks for trail #21v.
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**", take "**Gourdouze**" via :

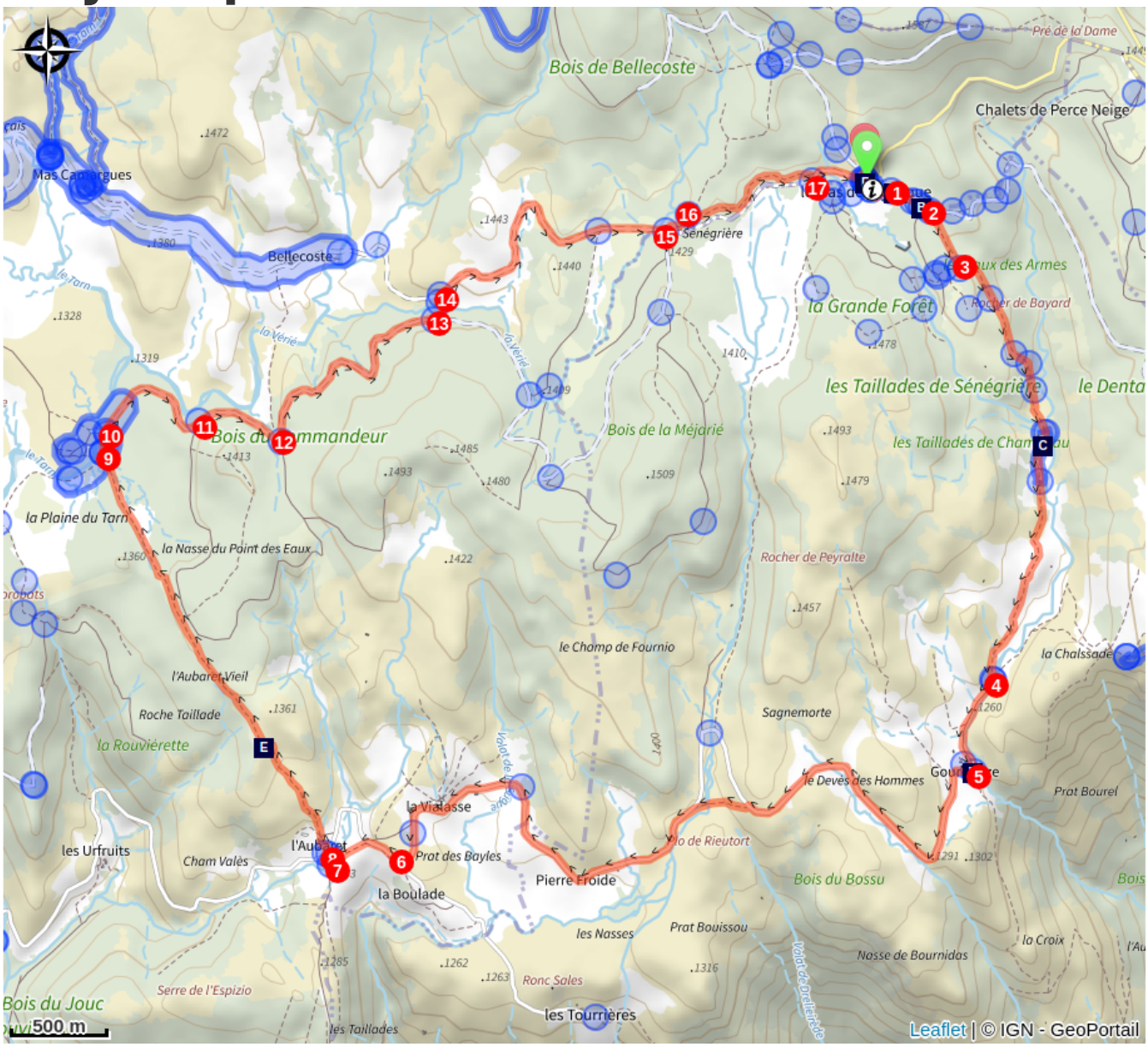
1. "**Les écuries de Mas de La Barque**",
2. "**Rochers de la barque**" (2x),
3. "**Les faux des Armes**",
4. "**La Chassalde**".
5. At "**Gourdouze**" head for "**L'Aubaret**" via:
6. "**La Boulade**",
7. "**Pont de l'Aubaret**".
8. At "**L'Aubaret**", take
9. "**Gap Francès**" and "**Pont du Tarn**".
10. At "**Pont du Tarn**" return to "**Mas de La Barque**" via :
11. "**La Nasse du Pont des eaux**",
12. "**Bois du Commandeur**",
13. "**Bouos de l'Oultre**",
14. "**La Planette**",
15. "**Sénégrière**",
16. "**Gardièze",**
17. "**Martelet**" and "**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.

Stages :

1. Déviation
6.0 km / 266 m D+ /

On your path...



Le Mas de La Barque (A)
Sphagnum moss (C)
The draille du Languedoc (E)
The mysterious boat (B)
Gourdouze (D)
Mas de la Barque (F)

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: patous (livestock guard dogs) between Goudouze and L'Aubaret !
Seek advice on how to behave near these dogs from tourist offices and National Park information centres.
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



Gourdouze (D)

In the 14th century, this village was a priory of Castagnols parish. In 1906 all its thatched roofs burned down. Parts of the village were bought by a private individual in the 1960s who greatly modified them. It subsequently became the property of the Cévennes National Park, which sold 250 hectares back to a Mont Lozère livestock cooperative: their herds maintain the space. The cooperative manages 1,200 hectares at Mas Camargues and Gourdouze. These uplands receive sheep and cattle herds from 15 May to 15 November.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



The draille du Languedoc (E)

This draille (path for seaonal livestock migration) was frequented by flocks of sheep during the transhumance and by farmers going to buy or sell animals at Bellecoste Fair, which was held every 16 July and 25 September. The path linked the inhabitants of the plateau to the village of Saint-Maurice-de-Ventalon. (Julie Hugon)

Attribution : © Olivier Prohin



Mas de la Barque (F)

The small family ski station of Mas de la Barque was inaugurated in 1968 to meet the expectations of people living locally. But in 1981, there was precipitation but not much snow; in 1982 the winter was mild; 1983 was a very hot year; and 1984 and 1985 were very cold (record: -23.5°C). These climate hazards gradually shifted the station's focus onto cross-country skiing; downhill skiing was phased out from 1994.

Attribution : otcevennesmontlozere