

# Cévenol valleys - trail #28

Mont Lozère - Ventalon en Cévennes



Le Salson (© Nathalie Thomas)



*An athletic route with a wealth of heritage features that crosses typical hamlets, a disused railway bridge, a mill and the memorial site of Champdomergue.*

## Useful information

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Practice : Foot race

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Duration : 3 h 15

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Length : 23.2 km

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Trek ascent : 1435 m

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Difficulty : Difficult



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Type : Loop

# Trek

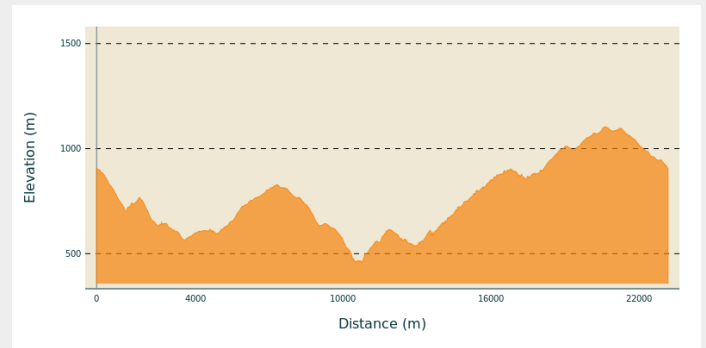
**Departure** : Relais de L'Espinas

**Arrival** : Relais de L'Espinas

**Markings** :  Trail PPN Mt Lozère   
Yellow waymarks

**Cities** : 1. Ventalon en Cévennes  
2. Saint-Privat-de-Vallongue  
3. Pont de Montvert - Sud Mont Lozère  
4. Vialas

## Altimetric profile



Min elevation 457 m Max elevation 1103 m

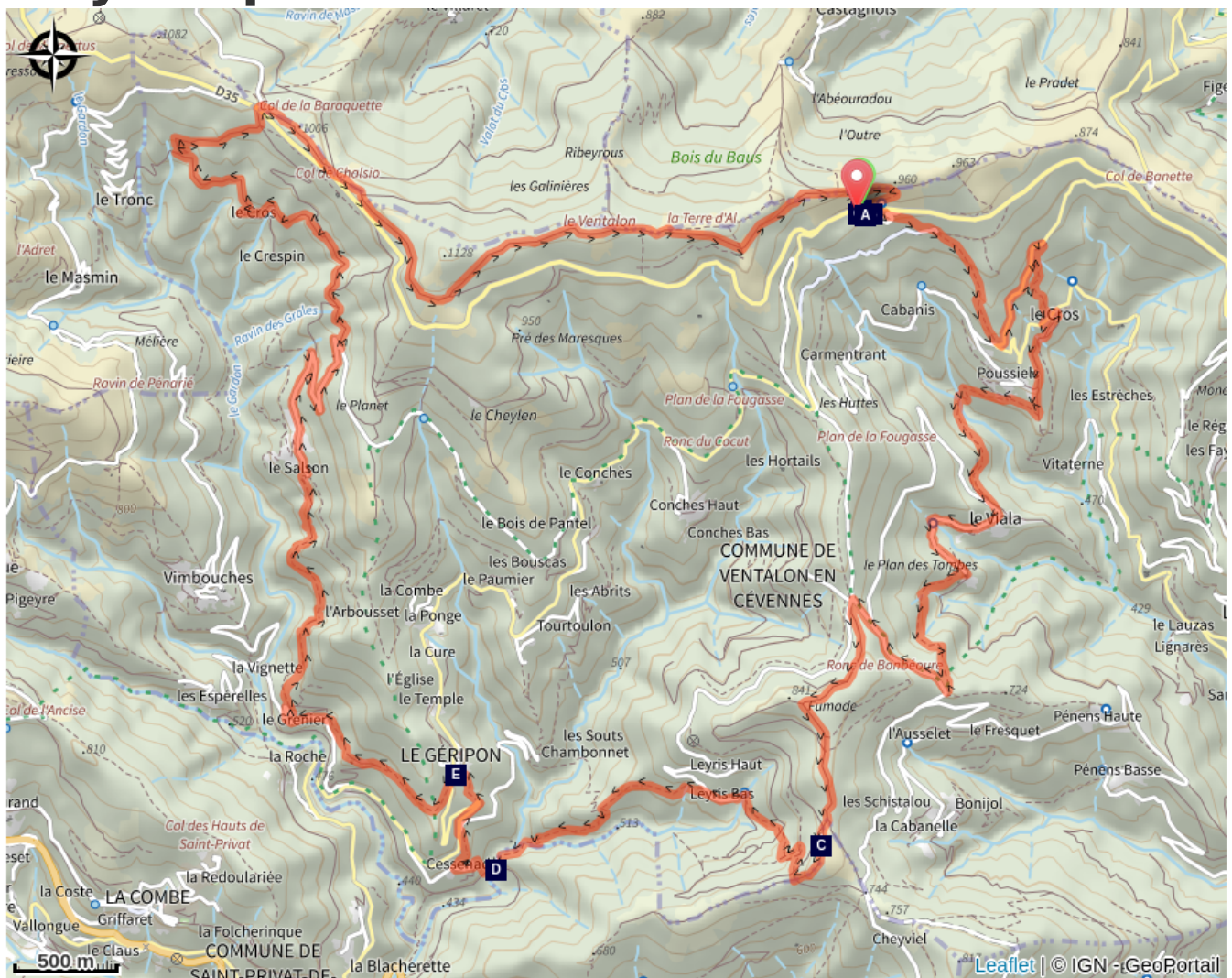
## Follow the waymarks for trail #28.





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




Starting at "***Relais de l'Espinas***", go to "***Le Cros***", then "***Le Viala***" and "***Champdomergue***". Continue to "***Le Viaduc***", "***Cessenades Bas***", "***Le Chambonnet***", "***Le Géripon***". At "***Le Géripon***", head for "***Le Salson***" via "***Le Grenier***". Continue to "***Le Salson - nord***" (from here, optional there-and-back to see the mill). From "***Le Salson-Nord***" go to "***Poumeyrol***", "***Col de la Baraquette***" and "***Col de Chalsio***". From that Col, return to "***Le Relais de l'Espinas***" via "***La draille de l'Espinas***".

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

# On your path...



-  A technique for the future (A)
-  Champdomergue (C)
-  The temple of St- Frézal de Ventalon (E)
-  The hamlet of L'Espinas (G)

-  Some reference points (B)
-  The departmental railway (CFD) (D)
-  In the days of the Camisards (F)

# All useful information

## **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 Pont-de-Montvert-Sud-Mont-Lozère or from Vialas, to La Croix de Berthel on the D 998, then to Relais de L'Espinas on the D 35 (the "Route des Crêtes" or ridge road).

### Advised parking

Relais de l'Espinas

## **Information desks**

### **Office de tourisme Des Cévennes au mont Lozère**

le Quai, 48220 Le Pont de Montvert sud mont-Lozère

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

Tel : 04 66 45 01 14

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





## Source



CC des Cévennes au Mont Lozère

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

Maison du tourisme et du Parc national, Florac

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



Pôle pleine nature Mont Lozère

## On your path...

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### A technique for the future (A)

Today, dry-stoning is in the spotlight again due to its qualities of suppleness and drainage and its role in preventing soil erosion and floods. Dry-stoning is a technique that respects the environment, is energy-efficient and based on the valuable heritage bequeathed by our ancestors. It is destined for a bright future.

Attribution : ABPS

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### Some reference points (B)

The path is at an altitude of about 900m, which, locally, is the maximum altitude for chestnut trees. Chestnuts are one of the few possibilities for producing food on the otherwise uncultivated slopes where the trees grow. It is estimated that, every year, chestnuts are harvested on 1,500 hectares of orchards in the Cévennes, which is 4% of the total surface area.

Attribution : © A. Waterschoot



### 🌲 Champdomergue (C)

In the field are the ruins of Champdomergue where, in 1702, the first confrontation of the Camisard War took place between those fighting for freedom of conscience and Louis XIV's soldiers. Champdomergue was a commemorative site until 1937.

In 1943 and 1944, Champdomergue sheltered a Resistance unit of German and Spanish antifascists, Armenians and Russians (deserters and escaped prisoners) and French men. They actively participated in the Vallée Longue Resistance through various acts against the Gestapo and the French Milice.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



### 🌲 The departmental railway (CFD) (D)

Inaugurated in 1909, the departmental railway (CFD) linking Florac with Sainte-Cécile d'Andorge required 15 tunnels and 53 road and rail bridges. It was closed down in 1968 for lack of profitability. The line is being progressively turned into a walking and cycling path, which offers picturesque views over the meanders of the rivers Mimente and Gardon d'Alès (Vallée Longue).

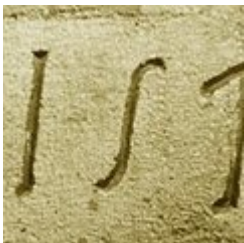
Attribution : Olivier Prohin



### 🌲 The temple of St- Fréal de Ventalon (E)

The temple (Protestant church) replaced a Catholic church that had been burnt down by the Camisards. The municipality bought the adjacent ruins in the early 1980s to turn them into a group gîte, an apartment and a community centre. In the hamlet of Le Géripon, you can see a small family cemetery. Cévenol Protestants, not having access to Catholic cemeteries, buried their dead on their land.

Attribution : © Nathalie Thomas



### 🌲 In the days of the Camisards (F)

The cemetery contains the graves of Protestants, whose religion was banned by the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes until the French Revolution and who therefore had to bury their dead on private land. The hamlet of L'Espinas is among the places of remembrance of the Camisard War (1702-1704): the revolt by the Protestants of the Cévennes against Royal Catholic rule.



## The hamlet of L'Espinas (G)

Built on a transport route used throughout the centuries, the hamlet of L'Espinas was a stopover for travellers and itinerant shepherds and their livestock moving between the plains and highland pastures. It lies on one of the branches of the Jalcreste draille, the ancestral drovers' road that follows the ridge.

Attribution : ABPS