

# The Bougès foothills, Trail #24

Mont Lozère - Pont de Montvert - Sud Mont Lozère



Vue sur le Pont de Montvert (© Mathilde Sagnes - Département Lozère)



*A superb adventure between the Cévennes and Mont Lozère: one of the best trails in the department !*

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## Useful information

Practice : Foot race

Duration : 2 h 30

Length : 20.9 km

Trek ascent : 778 m

Difficulty : Difficult

Type : Loop

# Trek

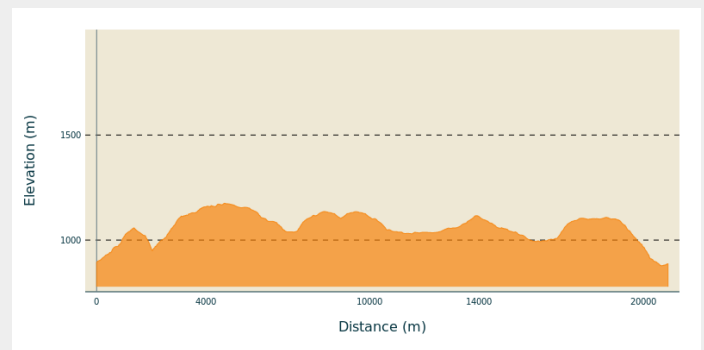
**Departure** : Pont-de-Montvert - Sud-Mont-Lozère

**Arrival** : Pont-de-Montvert - Sud-Mont-Lozère

**Markings** :  Trail PPN Mt Lozère

**Cities** : 1. Pont de Montvert - Sud Mont Lozère

## Altimetric profile



Min elevation 878 m Max elevation 1175 m

*You start with a fairly steep climb for 1.5 km, then continue on handsome paths to Felgerolles, before a gentle descent to Mas Méjean.*

*A short but rather sharp climb to the Col de Rouvère pass follows.*

*Then come 2 kilometres of false-flat track to reach Les Quatres Chemins (kilometre 14). A pleasant singletrack in the forest lets you recover quickly. The final descent is love at first sight. Magnificent views over Mont Lozère and the village of Le Pont-de-Montvert throughout.*

### Follow the waymarks for trail #24.

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:

From "***Pont-de-Montvert***", go to "***Felgerolles***" via "***Quartier de la Barte***", "***La Barte***", "***Prat del Lach***", "***Lou Mouly***", "***Le Merlet***" and "***Felgerolles***".



Then head for "***Montcuq***" via "***Masméjan***" and "***Col des Rouvières***".

From "***Montcuq***" go to "***Pont-de-Montvert***", via "***Travers del Prat***", "***Les Quatre Chemins***", "***Rampe de Champlong***", "***Flarouse***", "***Chanteloup***", "***Pont Rouméjon***", "***Place de l'Horloge***".

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...



- Frutgères (A)
-  Heath alternating with hay meadows (C)
- Panorama (E)
- A rolling stone... (G)
- Pont-de-Montvert (I)
-  Pine-forest fauna (B)
- A sheepfold in ruins (D)
- Sheepfold with lauze-covered roof (F)
- The Camisards' path (H)

# 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

In high season, parking is difficult in the village: prioritise the suggested car park at the edge of the village.

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 Florac, to Pont-de-Montvert - Sud-Mont-Lozère on the D 998.

From Génolhac, to Pont-de-Montvert - Sud-Mont-Lozère on the D 906, then the D 998 via Vialas and La Croix de Berthel.

### Advised parking

Car park at the Temple (Protestant church)

## **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 office Mont-Lozère, Bagnols-les-Bains**

avenue de la gare, 48190 Bagnols-les-Bains  
Mont-Lozère et Goulet

[contact@destination-montlozere.fr](mailto:contact@destination-montlozere.fr)

Tel : 04 66 47 61 13

<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...

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## Frutgères (A)

This village used to be the parish seat and developed long before Le-Pont-de-Montvert, a mere hamlet, turned into a small village of about 60 souls by 1631. In the 12th century, the important Commandery of the Knights of St-John of Jerusalem settled in the parish of Frutgères. This religious and military order later took the name of the Order of the Knights of Malta. The parish church was burned down by the Camisards (Protestant rebels), who were responsible for the assassination of the Frutgères parish priest, Reversat, in 1702, one day after the murder of the Abbot du Chaila in Le-Pont-de-Montvert. The church had been built after the unification of the parishes of Frutgères and Grizac. In the early 19th century, the municipality was densely populated (25 inhabitants/sq km). The large estates needed numerous labourers to harvest their hay, rye and buckwheat.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas

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## Pine-forest fauna (B)

Pine forests associated with blueberry zones are interesting environments for fauna: stags and roe deer come to browse the blueberry plants. Wild boar, foxes, martens and all birds eat their berries, including the Western capercaillie, which was reintroduced here by the National Park. You can also find coal tits, European crested tits, wrens, robins, mistle thrushes and black woodpeckers. Some birds of prey, such as the short-toed snake eagle, may come and build their nests at the highest point of a topped Scots pine.

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## Heath alternating with hay meadows (C)

### Marker 6

Callune has established itself on the knolls, meaning the convex areas which have poor and dry soils, whereas the meadows occupy the concave areas with their deeper and damper soils. All of these territories offer food sources for specific fauna. You may see hares, but also birds of prey (buzzards, hen and Montagu's harriers, short-toed snake eagles, common kestrels) and red-legged partridges.

Attribution : © Guy Grégoire

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## A sheepfold in ruins (D)

### Marker 7

You need to leave the path on the left and walk for about 200 metres to see this former shelter for farm animals (ovines and bovines). The materials for its construction were found locally: granite for the walls, Scots pine or oak for the timber part of the roof, rye thatch for the roof. The variety of rye grown locally had fine long straw. It was cut by scythe at the end of July and put into swathes, then stored in stacks and threshed on threshing-floors. Finally it was made into small sheaves, which were soaked before use to make the last seeds germinate and make the straw less breakable during thatching.

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## Panorama (E)

### Marker 8

Views of the southern slope of Mont Lozère

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## Sheepfold with lauze-covered roof (F)

### Marker 9

Unlike the previous sheepfold, this one was built out of heavy, compact and solid materials. A granite vault instead of a timber roof suggests the rarity of wood. The roof was made watertight by schist lauzes (tilestones) on a bed of clay or coarse granite sand. This place is called La Jasse de Chanteloup (jasse/jas: resting place for animals; canteloube in popular etymology = place where the wolves howl, or, according to scholarly sources, luppe = stone, height, rounded mountain).

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## A rolling stone... (G)

### Marker 10

On the plateau, the path has not always made a very distinct mark on the ground, evidence of little erosion. By contrast, the entire descent towards Le Pont-de-Montvert shows signs of more intense erosion, especially near the top where a large block has rolled into the middle of the path. It is the repeated passage of humans and animals that, combined with natural factors, eventually destabilised the rock. After the rock moved, the path was re-routed.



## The Camisards' path (H)

### Marker 11

This path used to be an important communication route linking Le Pont-de-Montvert with Barre-des-Cévennes. On 24 July 1702, it was used by a gathering of Huguenots coming from the Col des Trois Fayards, who intended to liberate their fellow Protestants being held by Abbot du Chayla in Le Pont-de-Montvert. These men thus used the path on which you stand. The tragic events that followed (including the Abbot's violent death) triggered the Camisard War. The landscape surrounding the village is the result of intense agricultural activity. All neighbouring slopes were cultivated, especially with rye, on man-made terraces called bancelles.

Attribution : © Brigitte Mathieu

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## Pont-de-Montvert (I)

### Marker 12

Le Pont-de-Montvert is at the confluence of the Tarn and two of its tributaries: the Rieumalet and the Martinet. The draille (drovers' road) has today almost disappeared, but it was once used by flocks from the south of France to reach the summer pastures on the Mont Lozère. The first neighbourhoods were established along this axis. In 1630 the village was almost as extensive as in the early 19th century. Three stone bridges were built over the rivers, but the great floods of 1827 and 1900 seriously damaged or destroyed them. The grand Tarn Bridge is the only stone bridge still standing. New neighbourhoods developed on the village's periphery, preserving the historic centre.

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