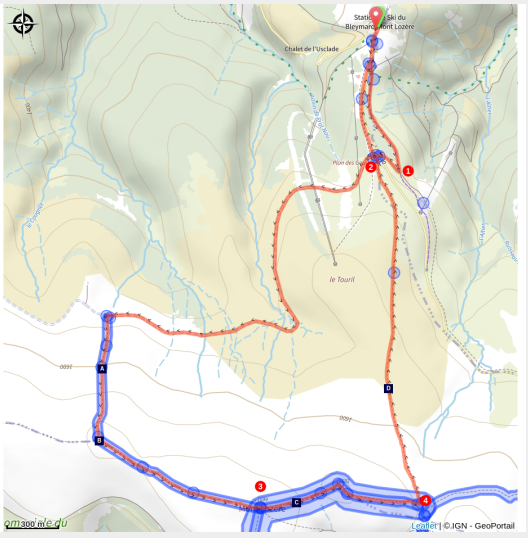
Summit of Finiels

Mont Lozère





Les crêtes de Finiels (© Nathalie Thomas)

Follow in the footsteps of the Knights of Malta as you hike to the highest point in Lozère!

Partez sur les pas de chevaliers de Malte à l'ascension du sommet de la Lozère !

Useful information

Practice : Hiking on foot

Duration : 3 h

Length : 9.7 km

Trek ascent : 295 m

Difficulty : Medium

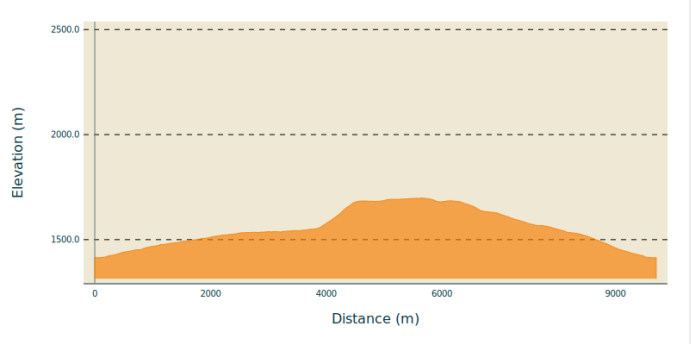
Type : Loop

Themes : Fauna and flora, History and culture, Transports en commun

Trek

Departure : Chalet du Mont Lozère
Arrival : Chalet du Mont Lozère
Markings : Yellow waymarks
Cities : 1. Cubières
2. Mont Lozère et Goulet
3. Pont de Montvert - Sud Mont Lozère

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1414 m Max elevation 1698 m

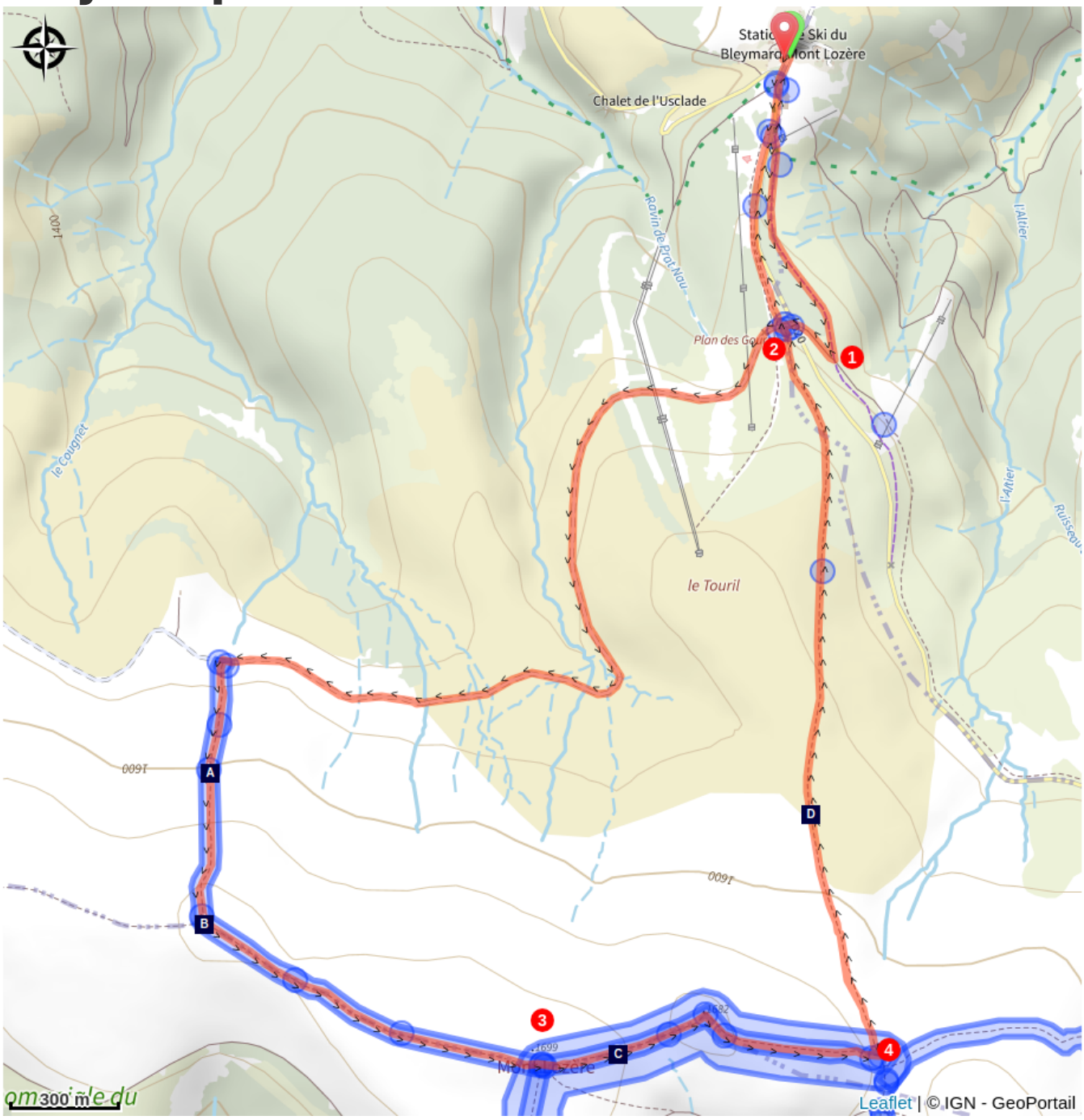
Signposts will guide you all along this route. In the description below, the signposted place names and/or directions are given in **bold italics** between quotation marks:

Starting from “**Station du Mont Lozère**”, walk to “**Chapelle du mont Lozère**”, then to “**Plan des Gours**”.

1. At “**Plan des Gours**”, turn right towards “**Parking des chômeurs**”.
2. Then go to “**Sommet de Finiels**” via “**Route des chômeurs**".
3. At the summit of Finiels, continue on the ridge towards “**Col de la Draille**”
4. At the Col (pass), fork left and return to “**Station du mont Lozère**” via “**Parking des chômeurs**” and “**Chapelle du mont Lozère**”.

This hike 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...



The viviparous lizard (A)
Finiels summit (C)

The Knights Hospitaller (B)
The montjoies (cairns) (D)

All useful information

⚠ Advices

Do not attempt this path in foggy weather. 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 any gates and barriers behind you.

How to come ?

Transports

This hike is accessible by public transport only in summer.

To consult the updated schedules and plan your trip, use the route calculator below by entering **the arrival stop : CUBIÈRES - Parking Station du Mont Lozère**

Access

From Le Bleymard on the D 20 towards the Col de Finiels pass.

Advised parking

Station du Mont Lozère (ski station)

Information desks

Tourism'house and national Parc at Florac
Place de l'ancienne gare, N106, 48400 Florac-trois-rivières



info@cevennes-parcnational.fr
Tel : 04 66 45 01 14
https://www.cevennes-gorges-du-tarn.com

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



contact@destination-montlozere.fr
Tel : 04 66 47 61 13
https://www.destination-montlozere.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 Mont Lozère

https://www.ccmontlozere.fr/

Parc national des Cévennes

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

Pôle pleine nature Mont Lozère

On your path...



The viviparous lizard (A)

Everybody knows the sun-loving common wall lizard. But another small lizard, the viviparous lizard, lives in the mountains, in the same environments that the common frog likes. Its belly is uniformly yellow or orange in females, dotted black in males. In the Cévennes, this lizard is found in peatbogs, near rivers, in meadows and heath moors and right up to the edge of beech forests. It never strays far from its home. Only love will push the male to cover 10 or 20 metres in search of a mate. As the species name indicates, the female gives birth to young that are fully formed and immediately independent. This reproductive strategy is much better adapted to the cold.

Attribution : Bruno Descaves



The Knights Hospitaller (B)

"It is an enormous farm. From the 11th to the 14th century, some of its revenues were used to finance the fight against the Muslims. As of 1530, the order of the Knight Hospitallers (first headquartered at Saint John of Jerusalem, then on Rhodes), became the order of the Knights of Malta, Emperor Charles V having granted them the island of that name. At the time, there were another 257 commanderies of the Knights of Malta in France; all of them were sold during the French Revolution.

For centuries, these monks and knights criss-crossed the “tundra” of Mont Lozère with their herds of sheep and horses bred for their brothers in the East. (…) These open spaces also provided them with precious fuel for the fire, plants for animal litter, game, etc.” (B. Matthieu, "Les chemins ont une histoire")

Shortly before the shepherd’s hut you can see a Maltese cross carved into a standing stone. It is a boundary marker.

Attribution : Guy Grégoire



Finiels summit (C)

The short-grass prairie consisting of a coarse grass species called matgrass adapts to harsh weather conditions at altitude. In the spring, wavy snow dunes form in some hollows; small heaps seek shelter behind shrubs. The Eurasian skylark, meadow pipit and common linnet already try to cross the summit by fluttering close to the ground. On the summit itself, some islands of callune (heather, which has the particularity of flowering first at altitude) and some blueberry plants manage, with great difficulty, to establish themselves. Boundary stones have Maltese crosses carved into them. In the 12th century, Baron de Tournel gifted land located on the southern slopes of Mont Lozère to the Knights of Saint-John of Jerusalem. In the 16th century, this order became the Order of the Knights of Malta. The commandery was set up at L'Hôpital and its land delimited by these boundary markers.

Attribution : N.Thomas_pnc



The montjoies (cairns) (D)

The "small menhirs" called montjoies that mark out the path did not grow by themselves.... Or rather, their origins were so long ago that nobody remembers. No matter! Look at these boundary markers and imagine for a moment that you are a giant who, after reading Hansel and Gretel, finds himself caught in a tourmente (heavy snowstorm and fog). Wouldn’t you have had the idea of planting a few pointed pebbles two-and-a-half metres high to be able to find your way back?

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas