

The Luech valley

Mont Lozère



La vallée du Luech (Nathalie Thomas)



Explore the Luech valley from different perspectives, from the riverside to the foot of the cliffs. Chareneuve will charm you.

Useful information

Practice : Hiking on foot

Duration : 1 h 10

Length : 3.6 km

Trek ascent : 183 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Loop

Themes : Architecture and village,
History and culture, Water and
geology

Trek

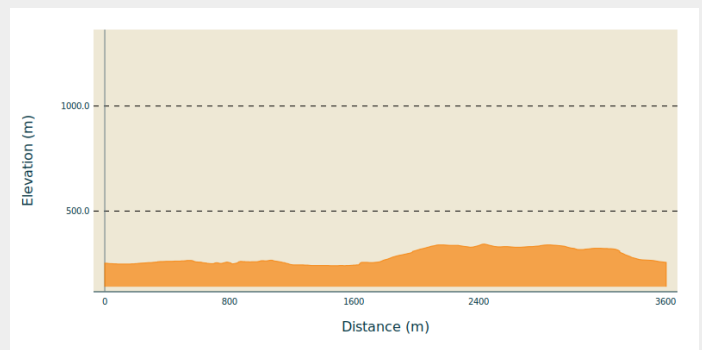
Departure : Le Chambon

Arrival : Le Chambon

Markings :  Yellow waymarks

Cities : 1. Chambon

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 240 m Max elevation 343 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 at “**Le Chambon**” :

1. Direction “**Chambon - Eglise**”,
2. Then “**Chareneuve**”,
3. “**Mas du Pellet**”,
4. “**Le Recul**”. Return to “**Le Chambon**”.

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...



Stone bridges over the Vildou. (A)
Le Chambon (C)

The hamlet of Chareneuve (B)

All useful information

Advices

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.

How to come ?

Access

From Chamborigaud, take the D29 to Le Chambon.

Advised parking

Village square

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'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/>



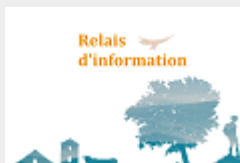
Tourism office Mont-Lozère, Villefort

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...



Stone bridges over the Vildou. (A)

The small stone bridges have long replaced the wooden footbridges, which the floods invariably carried off every year. Mostly built in the 18th century, these modest but astonishingly resistant structures are true artistic and technical masterpieces. Inspired by a Roman model, they consist of a single arch that straddles the waterway and sits on bedrock at each end. No central pillar blocks the flow of the river.

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas



The hamlet of Chareneuve (B)

The charm of these handsome village houses invites us to slow down. Our eye is drawn to the wide, white-water béal (irrigation channel). This very old and still maintained channel takes the water to the gardens, which are said to have the canton's earliest harvests! The channel empties into a basin of calm water. Behind it, the mill with its admirable roof ridge consisting of crossed lauzes (tilestones) had a system of wheels placed horizontally and driven by a vertical shaft, which enabled them to function even in times of low water. The water stored in the basin could also compensate for low flow.

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas



Le Chambon (C)

The history of Le Chambon is turbulent and set to the rhythm of its successive owners: feudal lords, the parish, the school authorities and the village council.

The oldest parchment dates to 17 April 1295. It refers to the sale of the fiefdom of Le Chambon to the Lord of Portes, whose property it remained until the 17th century, when it was bought by Mr Roussel. It later became part of Sénéchas. Le Chambon did not become its own municipality until 1839, when it had around 800 inhabitants.

After endless debates about how far away the surrounding churches were, le Chambon built its own in 1889. At the time, its lanes were animated by two schools, six cafés, many artisans and miners. When the coal mines closed in the 1950s, the village began to empty. Today, green tourism is reviving it.

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas