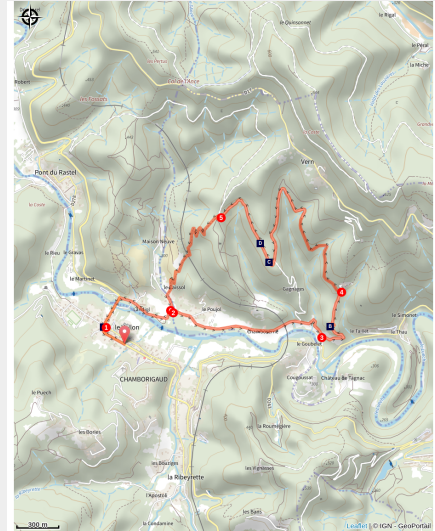


The bridges

Mont Lozère



Vue sur Chamborigaud (Nathalie Thomas)



The bridge is surprising in all its dimensions, from its very pronounced curvature (200 metres, the shortest radius of curvature on any of the large French railway lines) to the modesty of a slender bridge perfectly hugging the shape of the mountain.

Useful information

Practice : Hiking on foot

Duration : 2 h 30

Length : 7.5 km

Trek ascent : 215 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Loop

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

Trek

Departure : Chamborigaud

Arrival : Chamborigaud

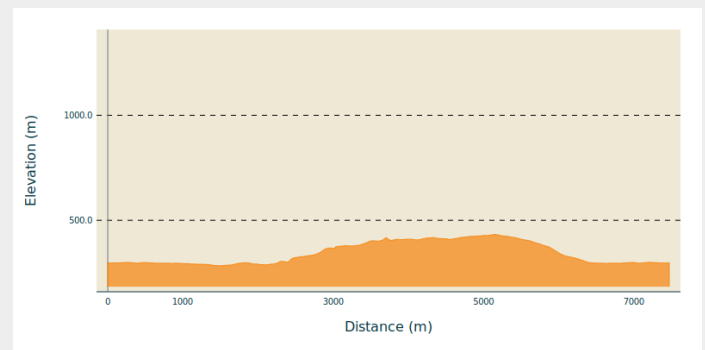
Markings :  Yellow waymarks

Cities : 1. Chamborigaud

2. Génolhac

3. Chambon

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 284 m Max elevation 433 m

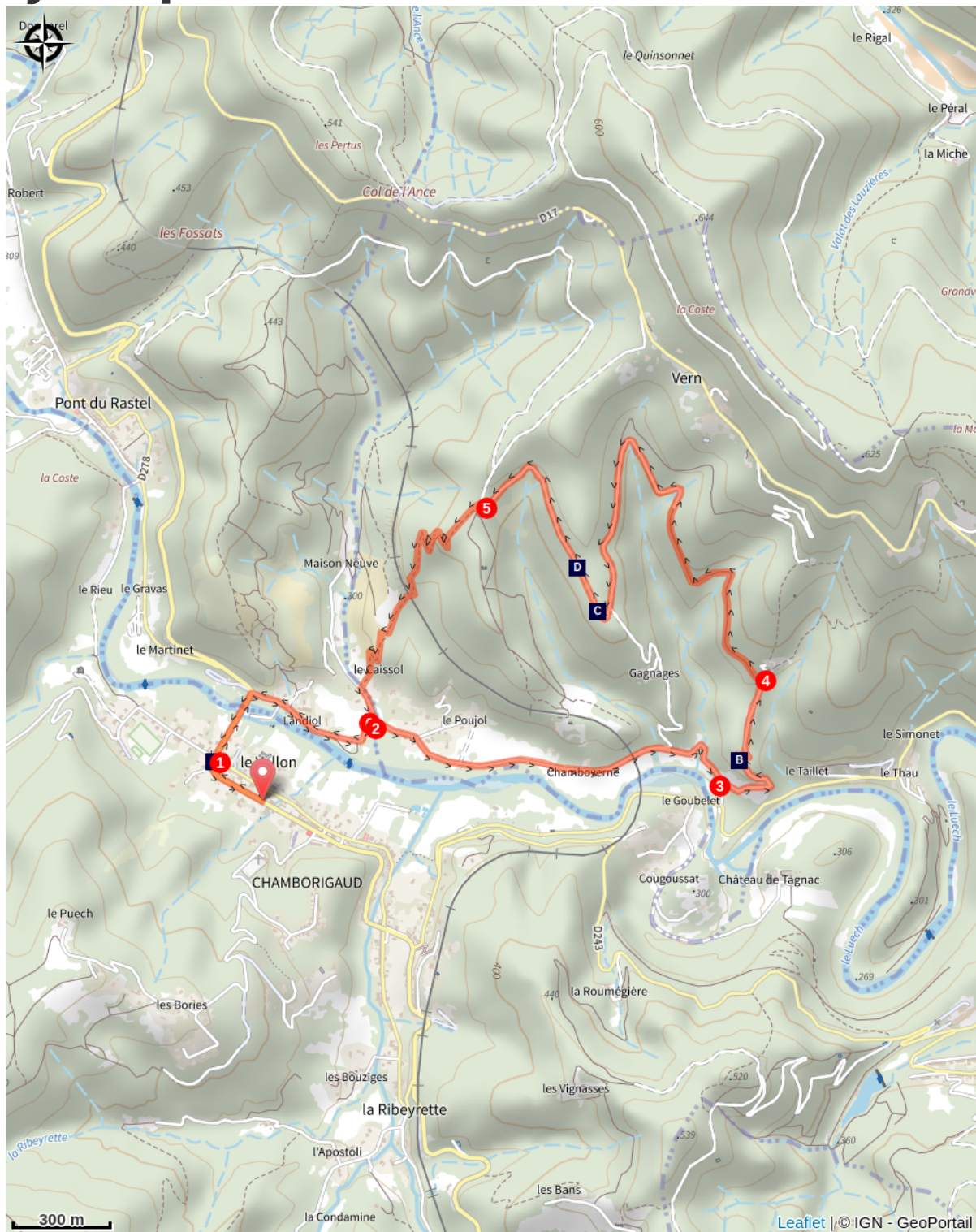
Signposts will guide you all along this route. In the description below, the signposted place names and/or directions are given in **bold italics** between quotation marks :

From the car park of “**Chamborigaud**” walk to:

1. “**Stade**”, then to “**Le Chambon**” via :
2. “**Landiol**”,
3. “**Chemin du Rigal**”,
4. “**Le Rigal**”. At the signpost “**Le Rigal**”, walk to “**Chamborigaud**” via :
5. “**Les Taillades**”,
6. “**Landiol**”. Return to “**Chamborigaud**” via “**Stade**”.

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 Jean-Pierre Chabrol literary
circuit (A)
Mas du Cotton (C)

Tree heather (B)
Le Luech bridge (D)

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. Please close any gates and barriers behind you.

How to come ?

Transports

This hike is accessible by public transport.

TER Génolhac – Chamborigaud every day

<https://www.thetrainline.com/fr/horaires-train/genolhac-a-chamborigaud>

To consult the updated schedules and plan your trip, use the route calculator below by entering the arrival stop: Chamborigaud (Station)

Access

From Génolhac, take the D906 to Pont de Rastel, then to Chamborigaud

Advised parking

Mairie (town hall)

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/>



Pôle pleine nature Mont Lozère

On your path...



The Jean-Pierre Chabrol literary circuit (A)

Starting at the mairie (town hall), a literary walk takes you through the village of Chamborigaud in the footsteps of local author Jean-Pierre Chabrol (about 5 km, can also be started at the train station).

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas



Tree heather (B)

Do you like heather honey?

Bees love it, and yet the nectar is difficult to harvest!

One of the stickiest of nectars, it makes insects lose time, by trapping them and covering them, forcing them to have a long clean-up after work. But how could bees do without the only nectar on acidic soils that is 20% calcium?

Common and bell heather have a family likeness: they both belong to the Ericaceae. The bells of the bell heather are a strong pink, bigger and urn-shaped. Common heather also has small clusters of flowers, but they are paler and so small that bees visit them less often than those of bell heather.

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas



Mas du Cotton (C)

"I have happy memories of the days I spent at "Cotton" when I was a child in the 1960s and 70s. The sheepbells moved down the slope of Le Rigal, mixing with the high-pitched calls of the female shepherd dressed in black. Her three sheepdogs helped her funnel the animals to the great door, which has not been changed. (...) In those days, the road wasn't tarred and life was a calm joy, with chickens leisurely crossing the road from morning to night. The mas [isolated farm or hamlet] was vast and well-run, it smelled of lavender or apples. (...) Forty years later, this scenic ensemble of farmland and handsome traditional houses is still marked by its agricultural past, but I can't come back here without terrible nostalgia for the flock's bells and the scent of the lavender that was drying in big bunches on top of the wardrobe". (B.M.)

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas



Le Luech bridge (D)

That's a railway up there, linking Nîmes with Paris!

One hundred and two tunnels were dug and 46 bridges built. The Luech bridge is the most remarkable with its 29 arches, its length of 384 metres and its height of 46m. For 150 years, trains have advanced slowly so as not to derail in the bend. Impossible to gather speed for the abrupt climb into the tunnel!

In the old days, leaves blanketed the rails in the autumn, making the wheels of the heavy convoy slip on this 1-in-40 gradient. Mechanics worried about being left stranded up there.

“While Marius braces himself in front of his voracious firebox, Léon, his hand on the control valve (...), attentive to the smallest sign indicating slippage on the rails, skilfully measures out the power of his 240 [locomotive]” (extract from *Les Chevaliers des Cévennes* by Raymond Fayvaise).

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas