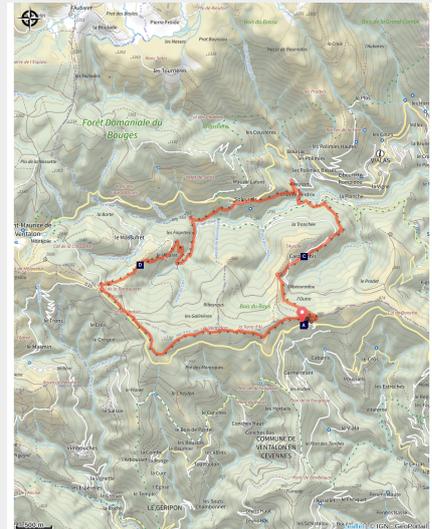


# Crête du Ventalon - Trail n° 26

Mont Lozère - Ventalon en Cévennes



Vue depuis le col de La Baraquette (© Olivier Prohin)



*A series of reasonable elevation gains, through pasture on the ridge and in the Luech valley, which here forms a sort of cirque. Handsome views south towards the end.*

A series of reasonable elevation gains, through pasture on the ridge and in the Luech valley, which here forms a sort of cirque. Handsome views south towards the end.

## Useful information

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Practice : Foot race

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Duration : 1 h 45

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Length : 13.6 km

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Trek ascent : 720 m

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Difficulty : Medium

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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. Vialas  
3. Pont de Montvert - Sud Mont Lozère

## Altimetric profile



Min elevation 563 m Max elevation 1103 m

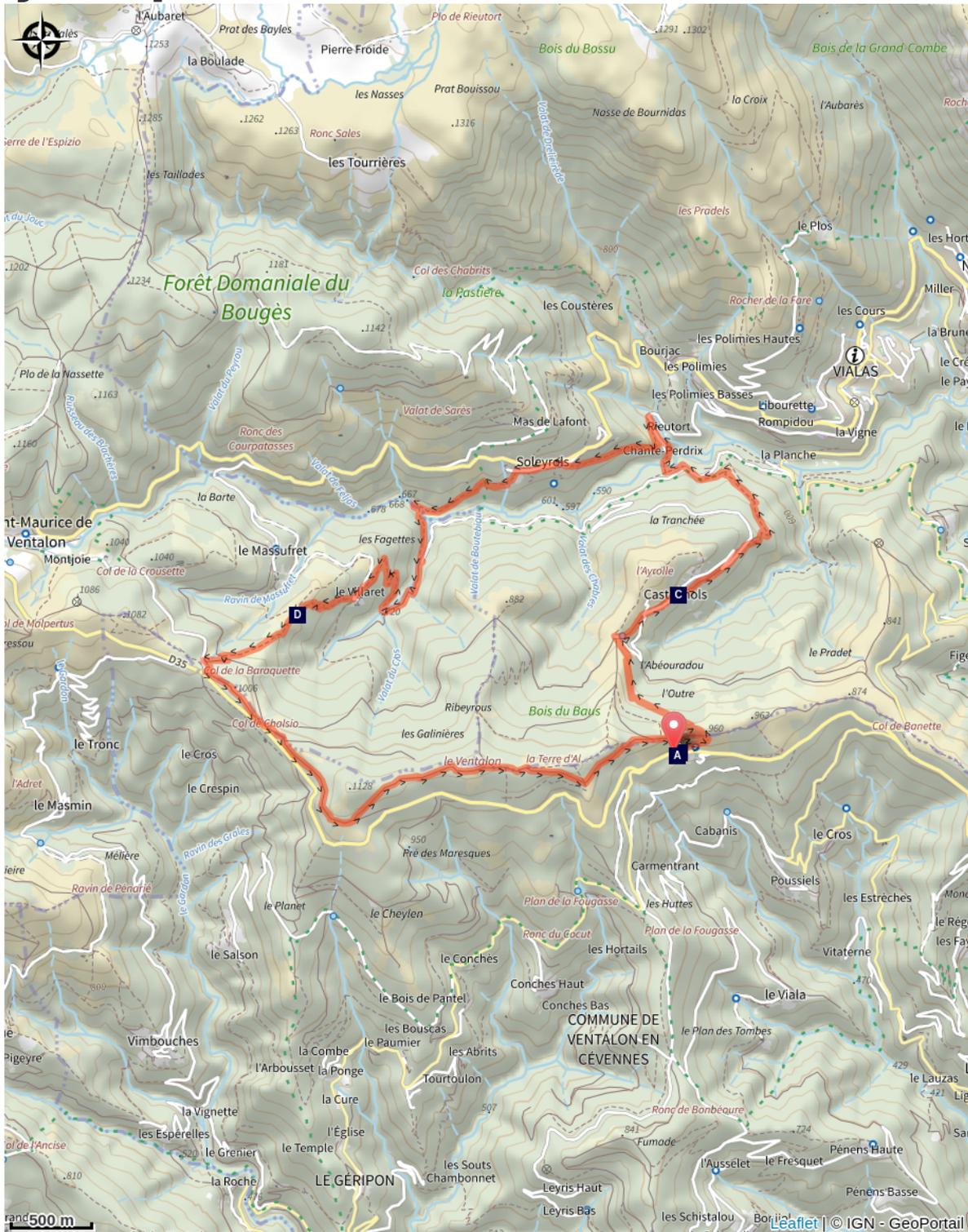
## Follow the waymarks for trail #26.

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 "***Relais de l'Espinas***" go to "***Castagnols***" via "***Draille de l'Espinas***", "***Pradiguas***". At "***Castagnols***", head for "***Soleyrols***" via "***La Tranchée***", "***Légaou***", "***Rieutort***". At "***Soleyrols***", go to "***Col de Chalsio***" via "***Ruisseau du Villaret***", "***Le Villaret***", "***Sous le col de la Baraquette***", "***Col de la Baraquette***". At "***Col de Chalsio***" return to "***Relais de l'Espinas***" via "***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...



The hamlet of L'Espinassas (A)  
Castagnols (C)

In the days of the Camisards (B)  
Le Villaret mine (D)

# 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>



### **Tourism office Coeur de Lozère, Mende**

BP 83, place du Foirail, 48000 Mende

[mendetourisme@ot-mende.com](mailto:mendetourisme@ot-mende.com)

Tel : 04 66 94 00 23

<https://www.mende-coeur-lozere.fr>



### **Tourism office Des Cévennes au mont-Lozère, Vialas**

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

Tel : 04 66 45 81 94

<https://www.cevennes-montlozere.com/>



## Source



CC des Cévennes au Mont Lozère

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



Parc national des Cévennes

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

## On your path...

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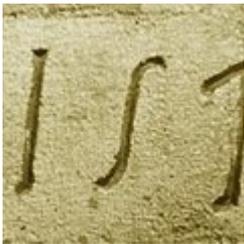


### The hamlet of L'Espinas (A)

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

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### In the days of the Camisards (B)

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.

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### Castagnols (C)

(origin of the name: chestnut orchard).

An important village long before Vialas, located close to a traffic artery on the ridge, Castagnols was the parish seat until 1684. The canons of the collegiate chapter at Bédouès benefited from the substantial revenues of its priory, founded by Guillaume de Grimoard, the future Pope Urban V. The inhabitants of Castagnols later strongly supported the Reformation. The Catholic church was burned down during the Camisard era. After 1970, Cévennes enthusiasts rebuilt it from the ruins.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



## Le Villaret mine (D)

In around 1920, a baryte mine brought much-appreciated income to over 20 families. “Transport was by tractor carrying a crate that contained 2 tons of baryte and pulling a trailer that contained another four tons. That way, we transported 6 tons per trip to the train station at Génolhac, and, when all was going well, we did two trips per day, so a maximum of 500 tons a month” ( Aristide Vignes).

Attribution : otcevennesmontlozere