Le Luech viaduct, MTB circuit #1 (blue)

Mont Lozère



Vue sur le viaduc (Nathalie Thomas)



A nice steep climb from Le Pont-de-Rastel towards Homol forest.
Handsome views on the descent of the imposing Luech viaduct.

Useful information

Practice : Bike

Duration : 1 h 45

Length : 10.9 km

Trek ascent : 286 m

Difficulty : Medium

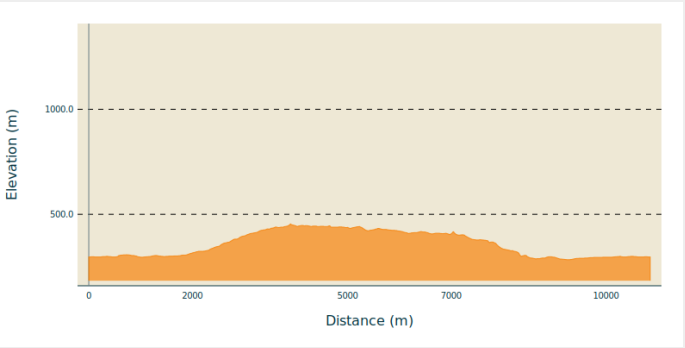
Type : Loop

Themes : Fauna and flora, History and culture

Trek

Departure : Chamborigaud
Arrival : Chamborigaud
Markings : mountain-bike
Cities : 1. Chamborigaud
2. Génolhac
3. Chambon

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 284 m Max elevation 454 m

Follow the MTB markup n°1

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 :

Starting from “**Chamborigaud**”, bike to “**Pont de Rastel**” via :

1. “**Le stade**”, take the bridge and
2. Turn left onto the road and pass Le martinet then Le Gravas.
3. “**Pont de Rastel**”, climb to “**Tumulus de l’Elzière**” via :
4. “**Les Aires**”,
5. “**Les Fossats**”, where you do a return trip to the tumulus (burial mound). Return to “**Chamborigaud**” via :
6. " **Les Taillades** ",
7. “**Le Rigal**”,
8. " **Chemin du Rigal**”,
9. “**Landiol**”. And “**Stade**”, “ **Chamborigaud** ”.

This MTB circuit 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)

Pont de Rastel (B)

Le Luech bridge (C)

Mas du Cotton (D)

Tree heather (E)

All useful information

Advices

No off-roading.

You are strongly encouraged to wear a helmet. Do not forget your repair kit and a small tool kit.

How to come ?

Access

From Génolhac, take the D906 to Le Pont-de-Rastel and then to Chamborigaud.

Advised parking

Chamborigaud

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...



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

Pont de Rastel (B)

Pont de Rastel, like Chamborigaud, La Vernarède and Chambon, experienced substantial economic growth during the Golden Age for spinning-mills and coal mines, in the 19th and early 20th centuries. This is the former Le Gravas magnanerie (silkworm farm) to which the writer Jean-Pierre Chabrol, born in Chamborigaud, often referred in his works. It has been the family's home since the 14th century.



Le Luech bridge (C)

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 Fayvaisse).

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas



Mas du Cotton (D)

“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



Tree heather (E)

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