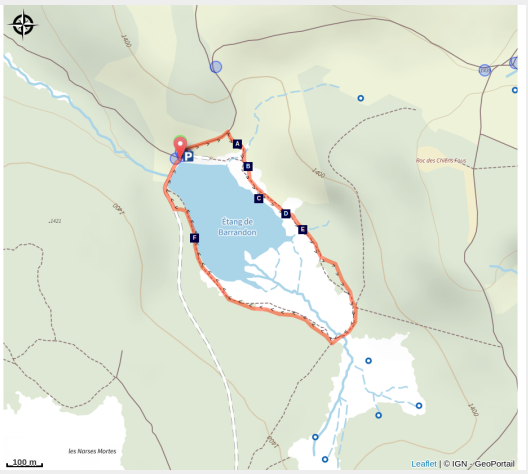
Around Lake Barrandon

Causses Gorges



Etang de Barrandon (© Parc national des Cévennes)



Anglers and hikers – would you like an hour or two of tranquillity in an exceptional natural landscape? Make an appointment with biodiversity !

Nestling at the foot of Mont Lozère, Lake Barrandon and its surroundings offer a mosaic of natural environments, from the very dry (on the steep slopes) to the wetter (by the crystal-clear waters). Leave the fishing zone to meander gently through the tranquil landscape around this timeless peat lake.

Useful information

Practice : Discovery trails

Duration : 1 h 30

Length : 1.9 km

Trek ascent : 26 m

Difficulty : Very easy

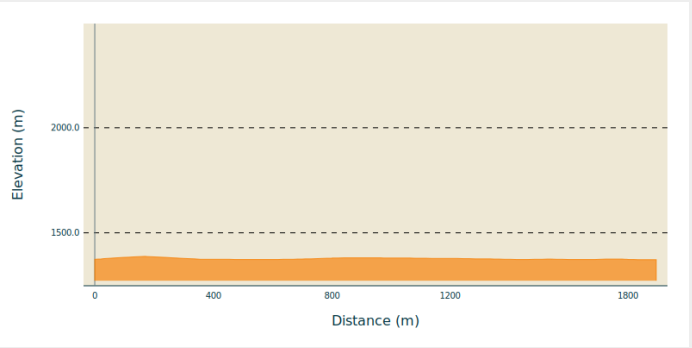
Type : Loop

Themes : Fauna and flora, Water and geology

Trek

Departure : Car park at Lake Barrandon
Arrival : Car park at Lake Barrandon
Markings : Barrandon
Cities : 1. Saint-Étienne-du-Valdonnez

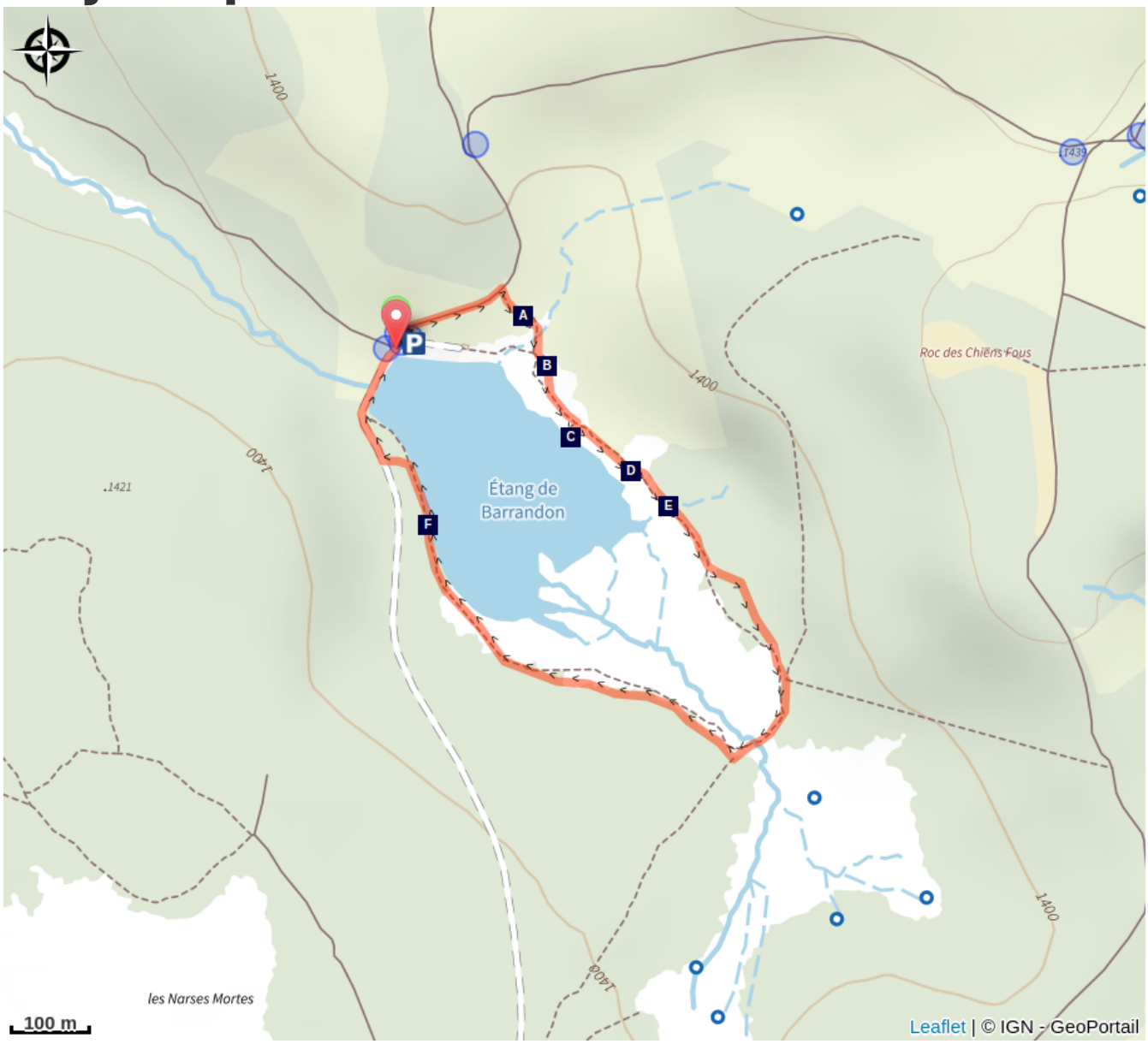
Altimetric profile



Min elevation 1372 m Max elevation 1388 m

From the path’s first post in the car park, follow the first section back up the track so as not to miss out on the viewpoint over the lake. The path then goes downhill and around the lake. From the sign “source cristalline [crystal-clear spring]” onwards, the path is dotted with markers. Remember you are responsible for the tranquillity of the site and its inhabitants.

On your path...



- A changing landscape (A)
- Traces of Humanity (B)
- The shallow bog (C)
- A sphagnum moss peatbog (D)
- The crystal-clear spring (E)
- Lake life (F)

All useful information

Is in the midst of the park

The national park is an unrestricted natural area but subjected to regulations which must be known by all visitors.

Advices

For your safety and to preserve the site, you must stay on the laid-out path. Horse-riding and mountain-biking are not allowed because discovery trails are not adapted for them.

How to come ?

Access

D35 Col de Montmirat (Saint Etienne du Valdonnez – Pont de Montvert – Hameau des Laubies), then a track accessible for motorised vehicles to the lake

Advised parking

Car park by the lake

Information desks

Office de tourisme Des Cévennes au mont Lozère
le Quai, 48220 Le Pont de Montvert sud mont-Lozère

info@cevennes-montlozere.com
Tel : 04 66 45 81 94
https://www.cevennes-montlozere.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/



Source

mont-lozère
communauté de communes

CC Mont Lozère

https://www.ccmontlozere.fr/

On your path...



A changing landscape (A)

In the lake and all around it, each natural environment has its own colour depending on the season. In the foreground is purple-flowering heather and golden broom. As you approach the lake, different shades of green turn into a bluish patch of open water. In the distance, pine-green forest forms the horizon.

Attribution : © E. Balaye



Traces of Humanity (B)

Nowadays, Barrandon is a lake open to fishermen and women. But its past has left traces in today’s landscape.

Attribution : © Etienne Jammes



The shallow bog (C)

This is the lowest point of the walk: the shallow bog or wetland. This configuration allows plants to have their roots underwater, fixed to the lake bed, and their flowers in the open air. These are semi-aquatic plants. Shallow bog is a rich environment where food is abundant. This benefits all sorts of animals, such as insects. Look at the dragonflies !

Attribution : © Emilien Herault



A sphagnum moss peatbog (D)

A peatbog is a strange place unlike anywhere else. Gardeners know that decay enriches the soil. In a peatbog, the water is so acidic and so low in oxygen that decomposition does not take place. Pretty mosses called sphagnum pile up without rotting after their death, creating a mattress of thick and supple peat. Only very specialised plants manage to survive, as well as animals that are well adapted to the cold.

Attribution : © Regis Descamps



The crystal-clear spring (E)

The lake is fed by brooks from springs; the main spring is here. It crosses an open environment without trees. Protecting biodiversity brings results: the Eurasian otter, a discreet semi-aquatic mammal, is making tangible progress in local waterways and in Lake Barrandon, where it is regularly spotted.

Attribution : © Regis Descamps



Lake life (F)

You can enjoy recreational fishing here and explore a natural environment that each of us must help to preserve. Close to the lake, Aubrac cows graze in the summer. All around, the forest plantations of the 20th century are exploited commercially. The lake is emptied of water periodically to prevent vegetation from filling it. Every year, it then has to be stocked again with trout raised in Lozère.

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