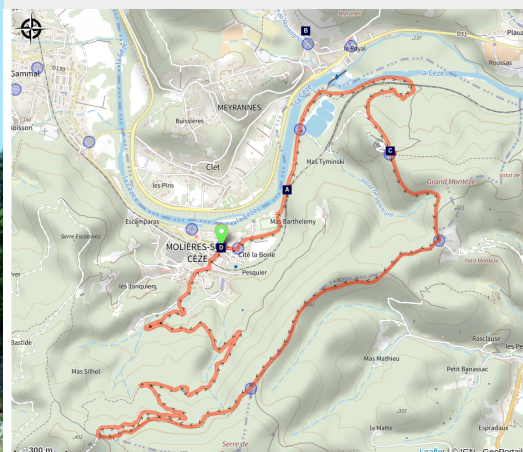


# Château de Montalet

Gard



Château de Montalet (© com com Cèze Cévennes)



This walk takes you from the banks of the Cèze to the ridges overlooking Molières as you admire the views of the castle.

## Useful information

Practice : Pédestre

Duration : 3 h 30

Length : 9.6 km

Trek ascent : 362 m

Difficulty : Hard

Type : Boucle

Themes : Architecture et village, Histoire et culture, Eau et géologie, Transports en commun

# Trek

**Departure** : Molières sur Cèze

**Arrival** : Molières sur Cèze

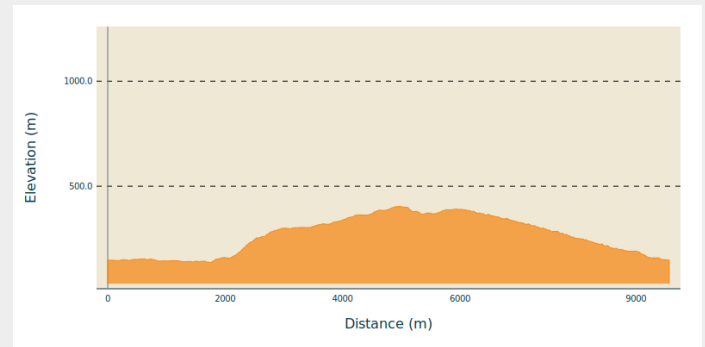
**Markings** : — Balisage jaune et mobilier signalétique

**Cities** : 1. Molières-sur-Cèze

2. Saint-Ambroix

3. Saint-Jean-de-Valériscle

## Altimetric profile



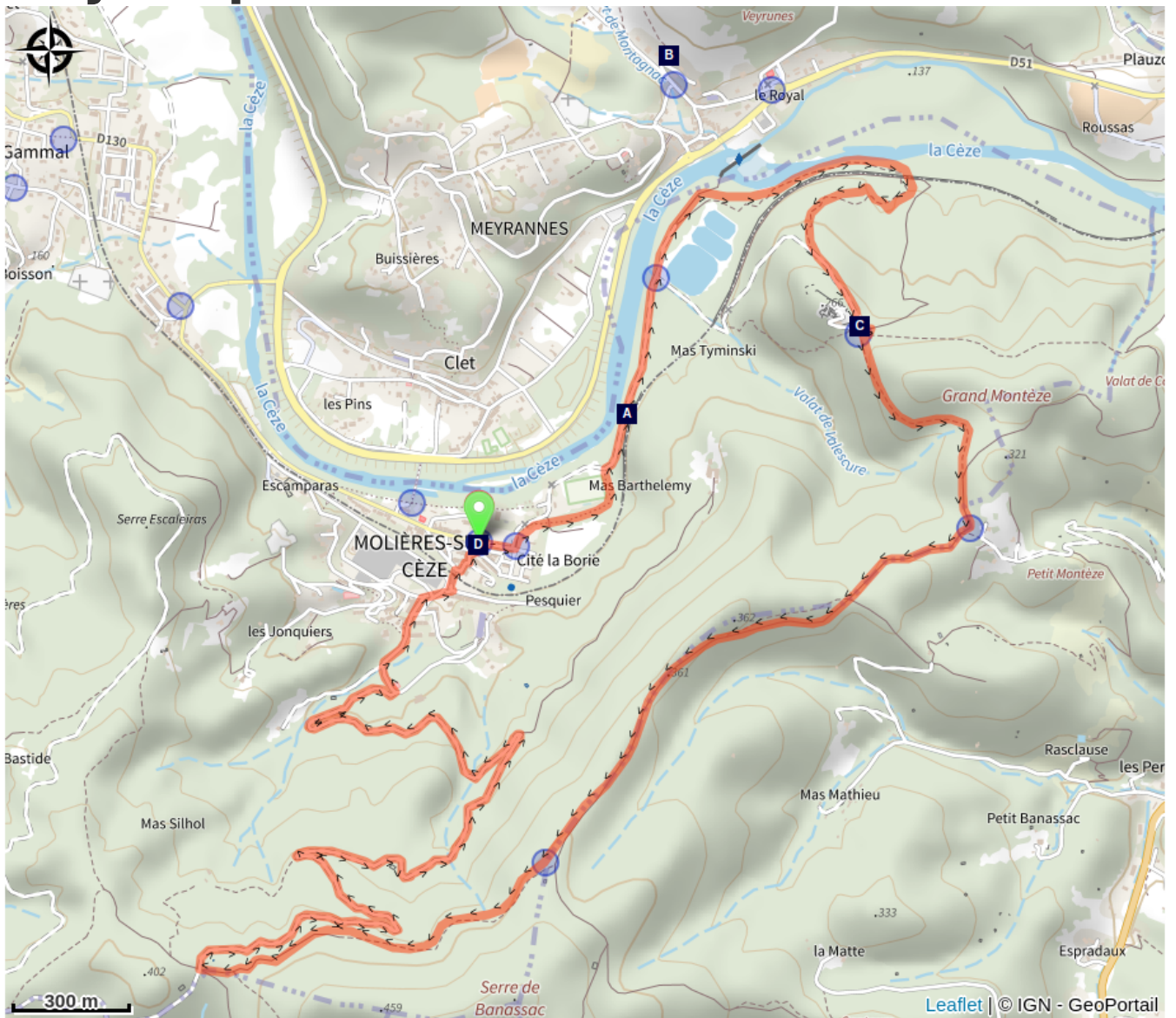
Min elevation 141 m Max elevation 403 m

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 from "**MOLIÈRES-SUR-CÈZE**", head towards "**CHATEAU DE MONTALET**" via "**Molières - La Borie**" and "**Les Bassins**". Then walk towards "**Le Petit Montèze**" and "**Mas Loubet**" until you reach "**Plateau du Mas Neuf**", before going back down to "**MOLIÈRES-SUR-CÈZE**".

This hike is taken from the guidebook **Cévennes Haute Vallée de la Cèze**, published by the Communauté de communes Cèze Cévennes as part of the collection Espaces Naturels Gardois and the label Gard Pleine Nature.

# On your path...



The Cèze (A)  
Montalet Castle (C)

Le Montgrillet (B)  
A mining past (D)

# All useful information

## **Advices**

Make sure your equipment is appropriate for the day's weather conditions. Take enough water, wear sturdy shoes and put on a hat. Please close all gates and barriers behind you.

## **How to come ?**

### Transports

**Bus stop** : René Hermitant

liO is the regional public transport service of the Occitanie/ Pyrénées – Méditerranée region. It facilitates everyone's movements by prioritising public transport. For more information, call 08 10 33 42 73 or go to [www.laregion.fr](http://www.laregion.fr)

### Access

From St-Ambroix, take the D 51 to La Croisée, and then the D 130 and D 244 to Molières-sur-Cèze.

### Advised parking

Market square

## **Information desks**

### **Tourism office CezeCévennes, Bessèges**

14 rue de la République, 30160 Bessèges

ot.besseges@gmail.com

Tel : 04 66 25 08 60

<https://www.tourisme-ceze-cevennes.com/>



### **Tourism office Cèze-Cévennes Saint- Ambroix**

Place de l'ancien Temple, 30500 Saint-Ambroix

ot.stambroix@gmail.com

Tel : 04 66 24 33 36

<https://www.tourisme-ceze-cevennes.com/>



## **Source**



CC Cèze Cévennes

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



Parc national des Cévennes

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

# On your path...

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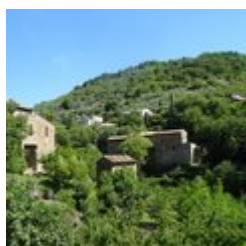


## The Cèze (A)

A study carried out into the navigability of the Cèze by boat was a failure: the river's flow is not regular enough. While its level is sometimes very low in summer due to drought, the Cèze can be dangerously unpredictable: it can reach exceptional heights in just a few hours. With its spring 25 km upstream in the Cévennes mountains, it receives all the surface runoff during storms, which considerably increases its flow.

Attribution : © JF.Raulet

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## Le Montgrillet (B)

Le Montgrillet is the hillock above the village. The population of Meyrannes used to be overwhelmingly farmers, who lived on what they grew. Le Montgrillet is exposed to the sun and close to the village, and was the ideal spot for farming. Evidence for this can be seen all along the path. The grove of olive trees above the path indicates one of the crops once grown in Meyrannes, along with grapes and mulberry trees (for leaves to feed to silkworms). (B. Mathieu)

Attribution : JF.RAULET

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## Montalet Castle (C)

This is one of the largest feudal castles in the Cévennes. Its purpose is believed to have been surveillance of the area located between the Régordane Way and access to the Ardèche valley. Its ramparts were originally flanked by seven towers. Its shape on the ground seems to represent a bird's wing, perhaps as a reminder of the coat of arms of the Bérard de Montalet family. The castle seems to have been abandoned by the Bérard de Montalet as early as the 15th century. Since 1985, an association of volunteers has been working to restore it. A mediaeval day is organised in the first half of May.

Attribution : © JF.Raulet



## A mining past (D)

The track going down to Molières is dotted with remnants from a flourishing mining past. In a large bend, you can spot a former slag heap now covered by pines. A little further, a sort of large keep reminds us that there is a mine shaft. Further still, you will see a footbridge that the miners used every day to get back to their homes, some of which were several kilometres away.

Attribution : © com com Cèze Cévennes