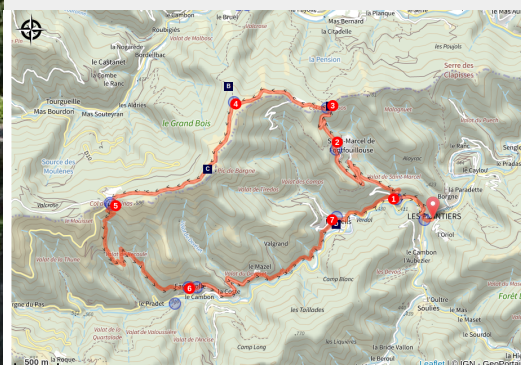


St Marcel de Fontfouillouse

Cévennes



Le château des Plantiers (N. Thomas)



Explore the handsome hamlets and villages of this schist valley, and walk the ridge with its high-up views onto Mont Lozère, Fageas mountain and of course Mont Aigoual.

The highpoints of this pretty circuit dotted with abandoned hamlets and bancels (crop terraces) is the magnificent 12th-century church of St-Marcel de Fontfouillouse and the 14th-century keep of Monteils.

Useful information

Practice : Pédestre

Duration : 4 h 30

Length : 14.2 km

Trek ascent : 783 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Boucle

Themes : Histoire et culture, Faune et flore

Trek

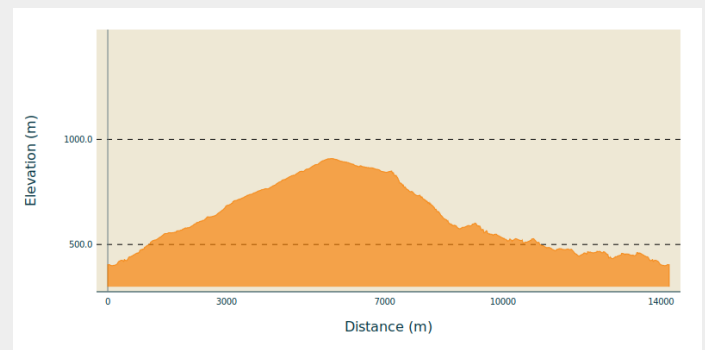
Departure : Les Plantiers

Arrival : Les Plantiers

Markings : — Balisage jaune et mobilier signalétique

Cities : 1. Les Plantiers
2. Saint-André-de-Valborgne

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 397 m Max elevation 906 m

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:

From the car park, start at the signpost **"Les Plantiers"**.

Walk to **"Col de Tinquos"** via

1. **"Auminières"** and
2. **"Fontfouillouse"**.
3. At **"Col de Tinquos"** continue on the track past the signpost
4. **"Aygues Bernesse"** to **"Col de l'Espinas"**.
5. At **"Col de l'Espinas"** take the path on your left and then on your right and go down to the valley floor to **"Faveyrolles"**.
6. At **"Faveyrolles"** walk to **"les Plantiers"** via **"Faveyrolles-Parking"** and
7. **"Les Monteils"**. NB: in Monteils, take the path below the tower and cross the hamlet going downhill towards the tarred road. Return to **"les Plantiers"** via **"Auminières"** (1).

On your path...



St-Marcel de Fontfouilhouse (A)

Look up! (C)

The sweet chestnut tree (B)

The keep of Montels castle (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. Take enough water. Please close all gates and barriers behind you.

How to come ?

Transports

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 (in term time).

Access

In St-Jean du Gard, take the D 907 towards St-André de Valborgne. After the village of Saumane, turn left onto the D 20 and continue to the village of Les Plantiers.

Advised parking

As you enter the village

Information desks

Tourism & national parc'house

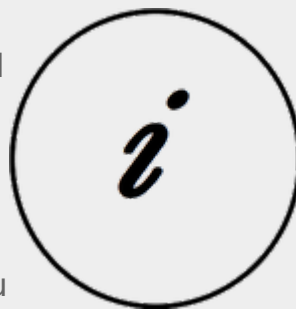
Col de la Serreyrède, 30570 Val d'Aigoual

maisonde-laigoual@sudcevennes.com

Tel : 04 67 82 64 67

<https://www.sudcevennes.com>

Accessibility : Accessible aux personnes à mobilité réduite sur les trois niveaux du bâtiment (ascenseur)



Tourism office Mont Aigoual Causses Cévennes, Saint-André-de-Valborgne

les quais, 30940 Saint-André-de-Valborgne

standredevalborgne@sudcevennes.com

Tel : 04 66 60 32 11

<https://www.sudcevennes.com>



Source



CC Causses Aigoual Cévennes Terres Solidaires

<http://www.causses-aigoual-cevennes.fr/>



Parc national des Cévennes

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

On your path...



St-Marcel de Fontfouilhouse (A)

The monks of St-Chaffre, who had settled in Sainte-Enimie in the first half of the 10th century, decided that this site would make a good stopover on their trips between the Causses limestone plateaux and the coast, especially since a large draille (drovers' road) passed through it. Thus, in the early 12th century, the monks entrusted the building of a church to local stone masons, who used schist and fraidonite as construction materials. The choir was finished in the early 12th century, and a new round of works finished the nave with its pointed barrel vault during the second half of the century. In 1503 two chapels (no longer extant) were added to the north and a bell tower to the south. Set alight during the Camisard rebellion, the church has been the object of conservation efforts by association Les Amis des Cévennes since 1973

Attribution : Marc Auberlet



The sweet chestnut tree (B)

“Based on pollen studies, some scientists believe that the sweet chestnut tree was introduced during the Roman Empire, and cultivated from the Middle Ages onwards. Its geographical spread was considerably expanded by selective planting and care wherever this was possible. Chestnut orchards replaced holm oak groves and deciduous oak groves on siliceous soils. The most favourable conditions for the sweet chestnut are soils without limestone, high site-specific moisture and an average altitude ranging from 300 to 700 metres”. (excerpt from Guide du naturaliste Causses & Cévennes, published by Glénat and the Cévennes National Park)

Attribution : Béatrice Galzin



Look up! (C)

In the forest, Dartford warblers (black, burgundy belly) accompany your efforts by chirping from the top of broom bushes. You might also come across their cousin, the much more colourful Eastern subalpine warbler (orange belly), or else a Northern wheatear.

The ridges are home to two rare bird species, protected in both France and the European Union: the red-backed shrike and the Eurasian eagle-owl. Other interesting protected species, such as the Eleonora's falcon and the common rock thrush, may also be observed here.

Attribution : Descamps régis



The keep of Monteils castle (D)

The castle to which this tower belonged was once part of the La Fare barony. It occupied a platform of about 400 m²; the ditch which used to protect its northwestern side has been filled in. The first three stories of this remarkable rectangular keep, which covers an area of 70 m² on the ground, remain. They are built out of handsome schist dimension stones and have resisted due to the sturdiness of the thick walls, which are solid stone throughout. An enclosed courtyard once surrounded the keep. The stones from the castle and its surrounding wall were reused to build the hamlet's houses.

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas