

Saint-Roman

Cévennes



Mur à St-Roman (© Nathalie Thomas)



As you walk the ridge known as Gallows Ridge, admire the Vallée Borgne and the Vallée Française, one on each side. But make sure you don't bump into the Lord of Moissac at the summit... That's where he used to hang convicts!

En parcourant la crête du serre des Potences, vous admirez tour à tour la vallée Borgne et la vallée Française. Prenez garde à ne pas rencontrer le seigneur de Moissac au sommet... C'est là qu'il pendait les condamnés !

Useful information

Practice : Pédestre

Duration : 2 h 30

Length : 5.5 km

Trek ascent : 320 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Boucle

Themes : Histoire et culture, Faune et flore

Trek

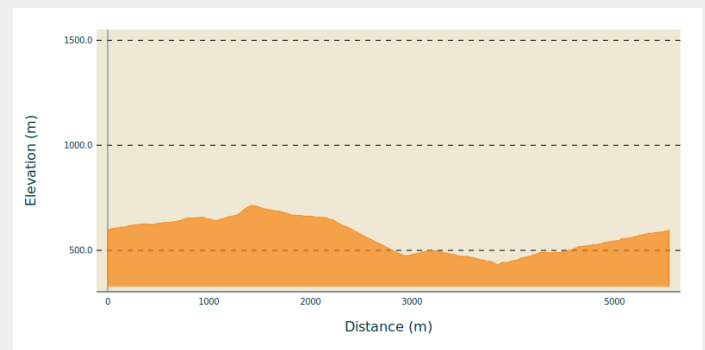
Departure : Village de gîtes in St-Roman de Tousque

Arrival : Village de gîtes in St-Roman de Tousque

Markings : — Balisage jaune et mobilier signalétique

Cities : 1. Moissac-Vallée-Française
2. Saint-André-de-Valborgne

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 432 m Max elevation 704 m

From the car park at the holiday village, go back up the D 140 for about 300 m and carefully cross the D 9 (Corniche des Cévennes) to enter the village of St-Roman de Tousque.

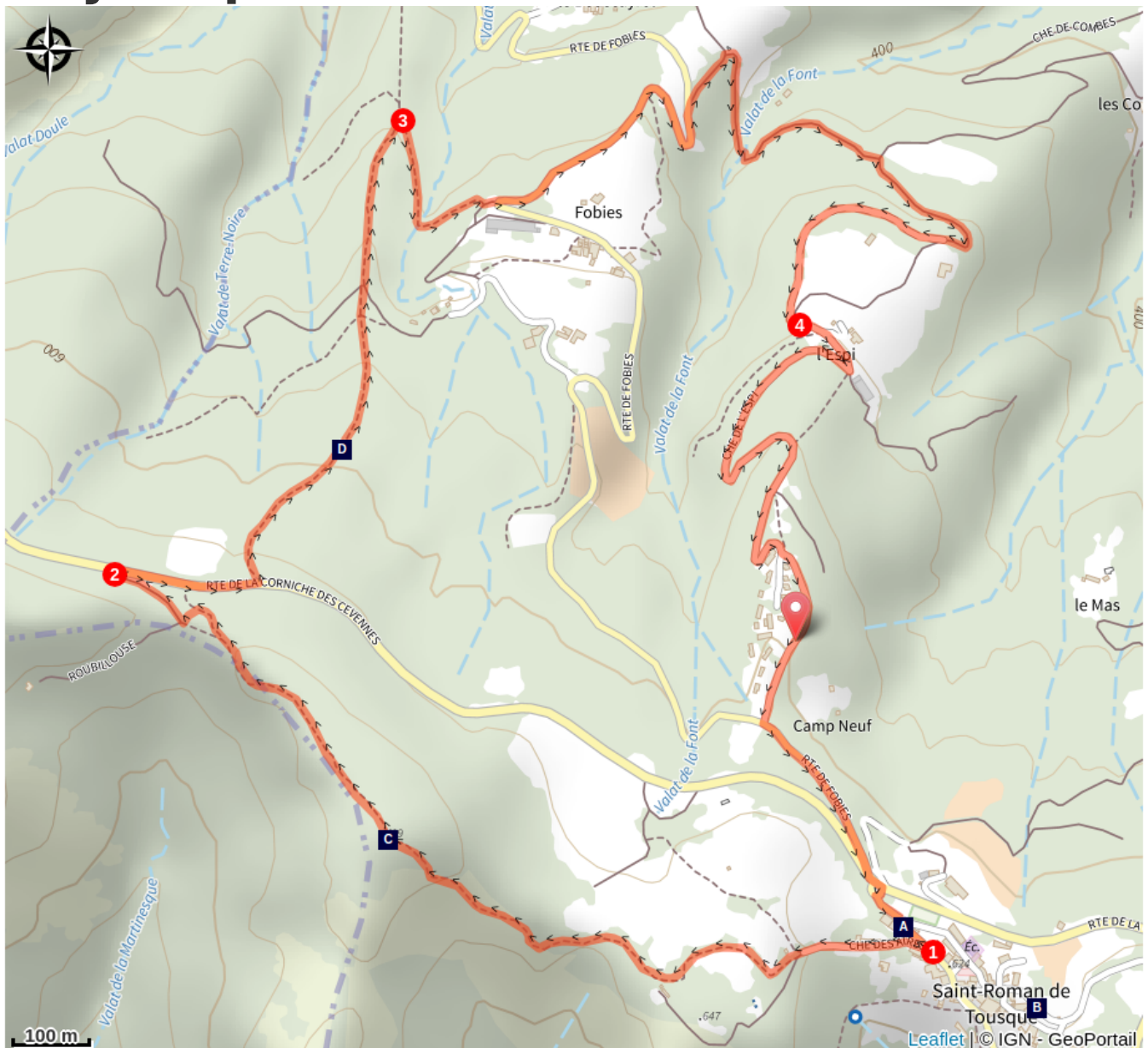
Take the small road on the left, which soon turns into a track. Leave the track shortly afterwards to walk alongside the dry-stone wall of a property on the right. When you arrive at a field, cross it by walking along its right-hand edge. Then follow the path that climbs to the ridge and to the summit of Gallows Ridge (Serre des Potences). Continue on this path, which leads to a track. Turn right onto the track.

Turn right onto the Corniche des Cévennes (D 9) and walk for about 200 m. Caution: stay on the side of the road! Take the first path which goes downhill on the left and plunges into a chestnut forest. It crosses large schist rocks from which you can admire the Gardon valley.

Take the path on the right. It crosses a drystone bridge over the Valat du Bouscayrol river. Once you have reached the D 140, near the hamlet of Fobies, turn left. After the second hairpin bend, leave the road and take the track that goes downhill on the right.

At the hamlet of L'Espé, the track becomes a tarred road. Continue uphill on the road to the holiday village of St Roman de Tousque to return to your departure point..

On your path...



Saint-Roman de Tousque (A)

Serre des Potences (Gallows' Ridge) (C)

The village of St-Roman de Tousque (B)

 The sweet chestnut orchard (D)

All useful information

Advices

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

How to come ?

Access

From Le Pompidou, on the Corniche des Cévennes (D 9). At St-Roman de Tousque, turn left onto the D 140 and park at the holiday village (village de gîtes) of St-Roman de Tousque.

Advised parking

Village de gîtes à St-Roman de Tousque

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'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 office Des Cévennes au mont-Lozère, Sainte-Croix-Vallée-Française

Mairie, 48110 Sainte-Croix-Vallée-
Française

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<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...



Saint-Roman de Tousque (A)

The village of St-Roman de Tousque, which is part of the municipality of Moissac Vallée Française, owes its development to its location on the Corniche des Cévennes road, which facilitated the expansion of trade. In the 17th and 18th century, the village had a large number of artisans and shopkeepers. During the Camisard War, a company of the King's troops was stationed here. The Camisard Lafleur came to sing psalms in front of the Catholic church, accompanied by six men. Believing themselves to be under attack, the soldiers barricaded themselves in, leaving the Camisards free to torch the church. The 19th century saw several Protestant commemorations.

It was in St-Roman de Tousque that the hymn of the Cevenol protestants, La Cévenole, was sung for the first time, during the bicentenary of the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, in 1885.

Attribution : OT des Cévennes au Mont Lozère



The village of St-Roman de Tousque (B)

"Tousque" is believed to mean "a tuft of trees, thicket, bush". This charming village overlooks the Vallée Borgne to the south and Mont Lozère to the north. It lies on what was once a strategic crossroads of two King's roads: from Montpellier to Mende, and the connection between the Vallée Française and the Vallée Borgne. Like Le Pompidou, St-Roman was a stopover village for horses and travellers.

As you contemplate the magnificent surrounding scenery or stroll through the lanes, you can imagine the much busier life in the old days... Today St-Roman is a peaceful village where life is good.

Attribution : Nathalie Thomas



Serre des Potences (Gallows' Ridge) (C)

Almost at the summit of the ridge, where the schist bedrock is relatively flat, are three holes 35 cm in diameter and 45 cm deep. They form an isosceles triangles with sides 2.4 m long. The holes were for chestnut poles linked by horizontal beams, from which the condemned would be hung.

The gallows belonged to the Lord of Moissac, who meted out justice in these parts. In the Middle Ages, each château had its gallows. They were located close to the château (here, about 2 km away) and visible to the valley's peasants and to travellers on the ridge track. You have to imagine the ridges without trees, as they would have been in those days.

Attribution : nathalie.thomas



The sweet chestnut orchard (D)

This chestnut orchard consists of ungrafted shoots (bouscas). A herd of goats from the hamlet of Fobies grazes here regularly, keeping the undergrowth down. This well-maintained orchard has more species diversity than a chestnut orchard that is not grazed. In the latter, you will find thorny and low woody plants – brambles, ferns, broom, heather – while a grazed chestnut orchard has a wide range of small plants: grasses, herbaceous plants, legumes, orchids, etc. This diversity shelters and feeds many insects, birds, snakes and mammals.

Attribution : OT des Cévennes au Mont Lozère