

VTT N°19 - The Durzon spring and St-Alban

Des Gorges du Tarn au Causse du Larzac



Le long du Durzon... (Virginie Govignon - OT Larzac et Vallées)



Following banks and single paths, the Durzon valley reveals you all its charm, between the bank of the creek and the ascent towards the Saint-Alban. A green mountain biking as much as possible.

The gardens of Nant and their irrigation canal, the resurgence of the Durzon and its clear water, the hamlet of Mas du Pré as suspended in time, the Saint-Alban hill, the Romanesque chapel of Saint-Martin du Vican: all the landscaped and built jewels that mark this demanding and fresh itinerary in the heart of a bucolic valley. To discover!

Useful information

Practice : VTT

Duration : 1 h 30

Length : 13.4 km

Trek ascent : 266 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Loop

Themes : Geology, History and heritage, Water

Accessibility : VTTAE

Trek

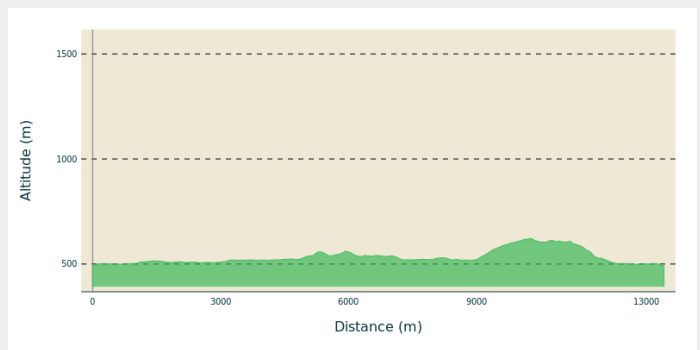
Departure : Nant

Arrival : Nant

Markings : ➤ VTT Parc

Cities : 1. Nant

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 492 m Max elevation 622 m

1. From the parking, pass the old market and go to the square "Place St-Jacques". Take the path called "Chemin des Vernèdes hautes", a beautiful little path between the gardens, which follows an irrigation canal on 600m before finding on a small road (D178) towards the spring "Source du Durzon"
2. Turn left and continue on the road for 5km before reaching the spring. Let's take a break and admire this special and peaceful place.
3. Go back on the right bank of the Durzon: cross the small concrete bridge and turn left on a path along the stream with a luxuriant vegetation, moss covers trees and the light has difficulty to land on the ground.
4. At the end of the path, at the cross, take right towards the hamlet "Mas du Pré" on the hillside. A slightly steep track at the beginning will allow you to reach a pass.
5. Turn left to follow the St-Alban hill halfway up. From the pass, continue on the track on 1km then on a small single to go down on the other side of St-Alban. You will arrive near the Romanesque church St-Martin du Vican (12th century).
6. Turn left on 200m then right the road towards the village.

On your path...



 The covered Market (A)

 The Durzon Spring (B)

All useful information

Is in the midst of the park

This itinerary is located in the World Heritage zone Causses and Cévennes, mediterranean agropastoral cultural landscape.

How to come ?

Transports

To travel by [bus or train](#), by carpooling [Aires de covoiturage](#) and hitchhiking [Rezopouce](#).

Access

At 33km southeast of Millau.

From Millau, by the D991 (Dourbies Gorges) or the D809 and D999 (Larzac plateau).

Advised parking

Place du Claux

Accessibility



VTTAE

Information desks

Tourist Office Larzac et Vallées

Place du Claux, 12230 NANT

infos@tourisme-larzac.com

Tel : +33(0)565622364

<http://www.visit-larzac.com/>



Source

On your path...



The covered Market (A)

The city of Nant obtained in 1369 the right to have fairs and markets, right granted by the Duke of Anjou. In the 15th century, the privileges of the city are confirmed: weekly markets are held there, 4 annual fairs are conceded, one of which lasted 3 days on November, 2, 3 and 4.

The covered market was rebuilt in 1706 and 1707, the first stone was laid on March, 13, 1706.

It is a squat, rectangular construction (30 m long and 8 m wide) with 12 pillars supporting the vault, interconnected by a semicircular arch.

On a pillar, a plaque commemorates the events of August 14 and 15, 1944 when two Nant's civilians and seven maquisards from "Maquis des Corsaires" were shot.

Listed in the inventory of Historic Monuments since April 13, 1944.

Attribution : Sandrine Perego



The Durzon Spring (B)

Located at the foot of the Larzac Causse, in the south-west of Nant, the Durzon Spring is a karstic resurgence whose supplying basin extends over 100km² between L'Hospitalet du Larzac, Le Caylar, Cazejourdes and Egalières. The Karstic system doesn't retain water on surface and constitutes big underground water reserves.

The flow of the source varies between 0,8m³/s and 35m³/s and has an average temperature of 11,13°C. The Durzon river runs for 6km and flows into the Dourbie river at the place "La Mouline".

Attribution : SandrinePerego