

VTT N°4: The cirque of Tournemire

Des Gorges du Tarn au Causse du Larzac



Le panorama depuis la croix de Gréponac (Virginie Govignon - OT Larzac et Vallées)

From the vast expanses of the Templar and Hospitaller Larzac to the majestic cliffs of the Tournemire cirque, a fun route in the heart of a natural paradise, rich in beautiful panoramas

From the granary-tower of Viala-du-Pas-de-Jaux, ride through a landscape shaped by the agropastoral tradition before reaching the cliffs of the Tournemire cirque. Vast horizons, large expanses and breathtaking landscapes await you throughout this family itinerary in a sumptuous natural paradise.

Useful information

Practice : VTT

Duration : 1 h 30

Length : 9.7 km

Trek ascent : 167 m

Difficulty : Medium

Type : Loop

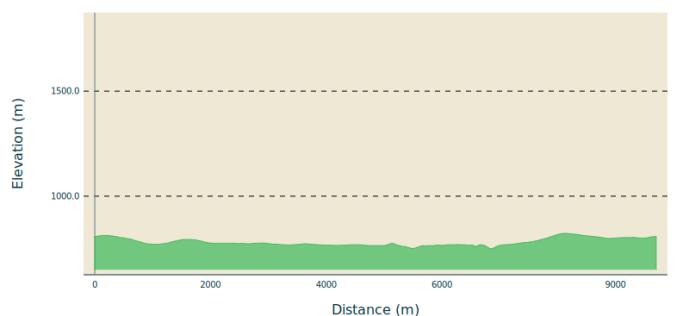
Themes : Agropastoralism, Geology, History and heritage

Accessibility : VTTAE

Trek

Departure : Viala du Pas de Jaux
Arrival : Viala du pas de Jaux
Markings : ► VTT Parc
Cities : 1. Viala-du-Pas-de-Jaux
2. Tournemire

Altimetric profile

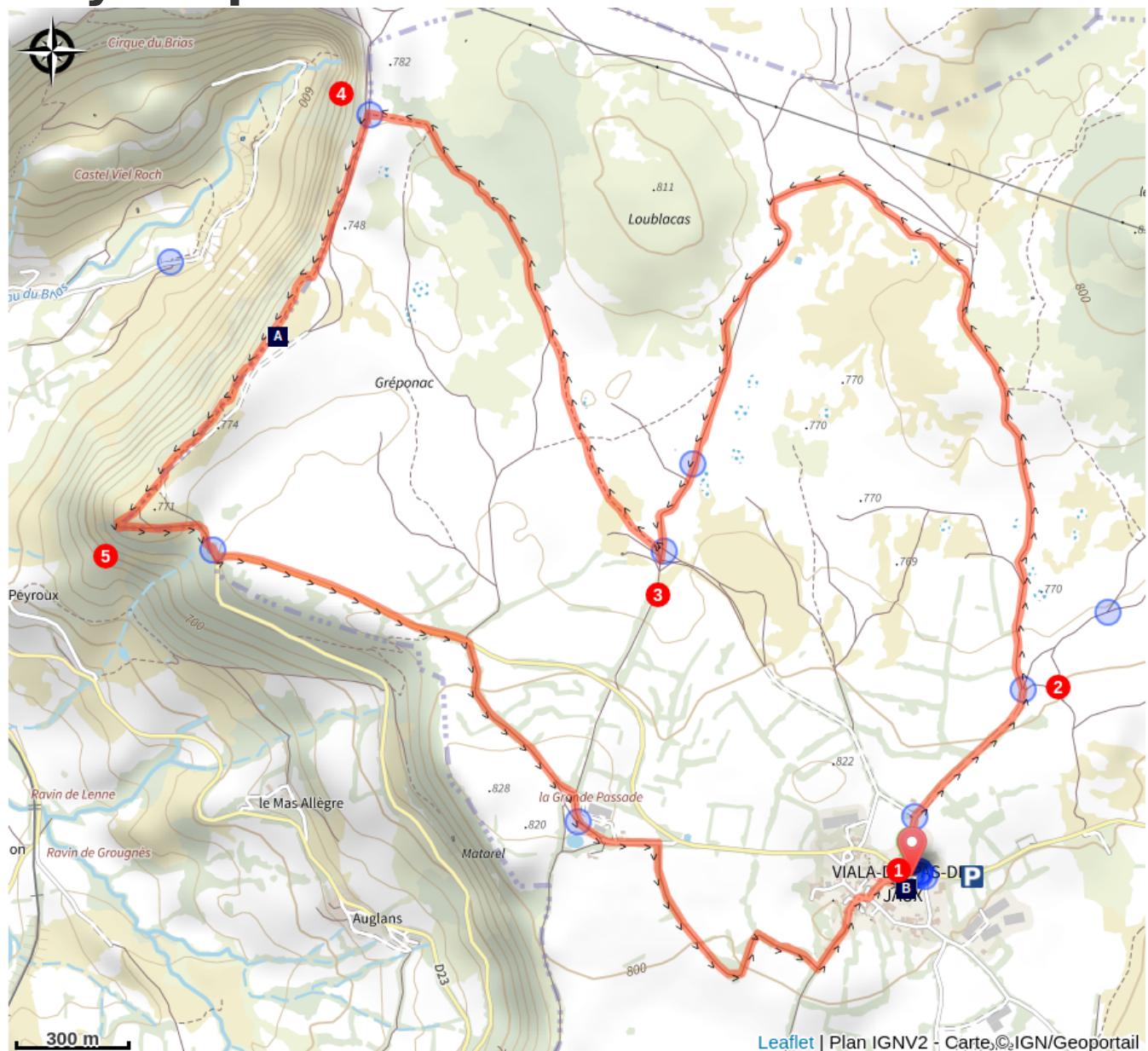


Min elevation 750 m Max elevation 823 m

From the car park, get to the village.

1. Take the street that goes up in front of the Tower. At the crossroads follow the GR on the right (red and white markers).
2. 400m further, turn left on the track. At the intersection, follow yellow signs on the right.
3. Once on the edge of the cliffs, follow the single path that runs along them until the cross.
4. To come back to the village, take the road first and then the track on the right (GR 71 C).

On your path...



The Tournemire cirque (A)

Tower of Viala du Pas de Jaux (B)

All useful information

i 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

36km south of Millau by the D809 and the D23.

Advised parking

Shaded car park direction L'Hospitalet du Larzac.

Accessibility



i Information desks

Tourist Office Larzac et Vallées

Place du Claux, 12230 NANT

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Tel : +33(0)565622364

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



Source

On your path...



✿ The Tournemire cirque (A)

Situated in the southwest of the Larzac Causse, the Tournemire Cirque is a remarkable geological area marking the boundary between the fore-causses and the great causses. It presents limestone ledges and rocky escarpments with caves and cavities where raptors such as the eagle owl and the golden eagle nest.

Attribution : Claude Chambaud



✿ Tower of Viala du Pas de Jaux (B)

The Lord of Tournemire gave to the Templars knights the lands of Viala du Pas de Jaux in 1150. In the 12th and 13th centuries, the Viala consisted of a few farms.

After 1312, when the Hospitallers took possession of the Templars' property, they decided to create in this place a village and for that they built farm buildings, managed by the brothers of the order. They constructed for them a dwelling and a church dedicated to St-Jean-Baptiste, the patron of the Hospitallers.

Until 1430, the inhabitants of Viala du Pas de Jaux and the surroundings took refuge in Ste-Eulalie de Cernon during the periods of insecurity which occurred on the Larzac. Because of the high distance between the two villages, the inhabitants asked the authorization to the Grand Prior of Saint Gilles, to build a fortified tower to be able to take refuge inside with their possessions. This is the first fortification built on the plateau. Today the 30 meters high tower has been restored. The vaulted ground floor, the five floors, its terrace and the dwelling dating from the 14th century are now accessible.

Attribution : Association La Tour du Viala