The Gréponac cross

Des Gorges du Tarn au Causse du Larzac



La croix de Gréponac (Virginie Govignon - OT Larzac et Vallées)



On paths taken by the shepherds, on the footsteps of the Templars, explore the Larzac Causse to this white cross from which a superb panorama on the Tournemire cirque unfolds.

Stone lighthouse keeping an eye on the Larzac steppe, the granary-tower of Viala-du-Pas-De-Jaux is the starting point of this easy itinerary that crosses a landscape like no other, where the millennial breeding and the monks-soldiers of the Middle Ages have affixed their footprint. This walk takes you to the edge of the plateau, majestic sight on top.

Useful information

Practice : Trekking

Duration : 2 h 40

Length : 7.3 km

Trek ascent : 117 m

Difficulty : Easy

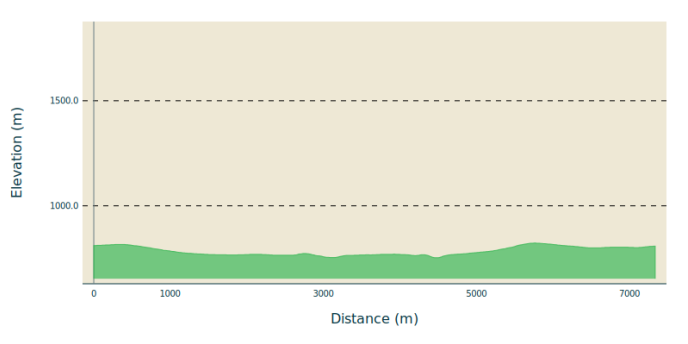
Type : Loop

Themes : Agropastoralism, History and heritage, Panorama, Top 3 Aveyron

Trek

Departure : Tower of Viala du Pas de Jaux
Arrival : Tower of Viala du Pas de Jaux
Markings : GR PR
Cities : 1. Viala-du-Pas-de-Jaux
2. Tournemire

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 753 m Max elevation 823 m

From the park car, get to the village.

1. From the tower of Viala-du Pas-de-Jaux, head north and follow the GR71C for 200m.
2. At the wayside cross, turn off towards left, follow a track in the middle of the boxwoods which, after 1km, joins to “La Grande Passade”. Continue northwest towards the plateau. Walk along a fence to reach a junction on the edge of the cliffs.
3. Turn left and continue walking on the top of cliffs until the cross of Gréponac (beautiful views on the Tournemire Cirque).
4. From the cross, head east to get to the road D23. Take it for 800m.
5. Turn right in operating path towards the cross of “Plo de la Lavogne”. After the cobbled-watering place, turn off left.
6. Before D23, turn right and follow a dirt track that gets to a small road. Take it on the left in direction of the village of Viala to reach the starting point.

On your path...



The Tournemire cirque (A)
Croix de Gréponac (B)
Tower of Viala du Pas de Jaux (C)

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.

Advices

White and red signs (GR) excepted between point 2 and 3 (yellow signs).

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 D23.

Advised parking

Shaded car park direction L'Hospitalet du Larzac.

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

C.C. Larzac et Vallées - CDRP Aveyron

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 bondary beetwen 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



Croix de Gréponac (B)

Perched above the Cirque of Tournemire, the stone Croix de Gréponac is a landmark of the landscape. It offers outstanding panoramic views over the village of Tournemire, the dramatic contours of the cirque, and the surrounding foothills of the Causses, making it an ideal spot to pause and take in the scenery.

Attribution : Xavier Waerzeggers



Tower of Viala du Pas de Jaux (C)

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 village, 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