

Causse de Nissac N°5 VTT

Des falaises de Roquefort au Rougier



Lavogne d'Hermilix (Virginie Govignon)



A ride on the avant-causses with splendid 360° views.

The agropastoral heritage displayed along this circuit is rich and well preserved: jasses, lavogne, buissières and caussenard buildings. This circuit will allow you to explore the trees and plants typical of the area: box trees, oaks, blackthorns and thistles, together with the local terrain, which is sometimes stony, and at others sandy. The little difference in elevation makes it accessible to all.

Useful information

Practice : VTT

Duration : 1 h 15

Length : 18.7 km

Trek ascent : 386 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Loop

Themes : Savoir-faire, Agropastoralism, History and heritage, Panorama

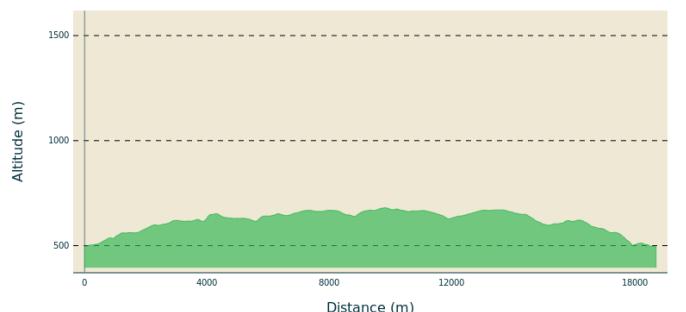
Altimetric profile

Departure : the bend at the entrance of St-Etienne de Naucoules

Arrival : St-Etienne de Nature

Markings : VTT Parc

Cities : 1. Saint-Jean-d'Alcapiès
2. Saint-Jean-et-Saint-Paul
3. Versols-et-Lapeyre
4. Saint-Affrique



Min elevation 495 m Max elevation 680 m

As you cycle around the bend on entering the hamlet of Saint Etienne de Naucoules, take the path to your left that runs to the North down into the valley. Take a right turn at the first three forks in the path.

1. Then turn left towards the East. You will pass along a deserted farm called **“Camp Biel”**, which has a splendid vaulted U shaped building open towards the South. This circuit will allow you to explore the trees and plants typical of the area: box trees, oaks, blackthorns and thistles, together with the local terrain, which is sometimes stony, and at others sandy.
2. At the Eastern end of the plateau, you need to take a right hand turn **to join circuit n° 4**. Here, the two circuits share the same path up to Hermélix where you can enjoy the view over the Verzolet valley. Carry on this path towards a place called Sayssou
3. You can pause here to look at some **dolmens** that are partly hidden among the box tree hedges. Coming on to the road leading to the hamlet of “Causse de Nissac”, you will see the impressive **château de Montalègre** beyond the Sorgues valley.
4. On entering the hamlet, take the first right and follow this path until you reach a disused power transformer.
5. It conceals the entrance to the bouissière (a path lined with box trees) which will lead you to the **dolmen** and the **lavogne** (a man made pond where sheep drink) of Hermélix. From here you can cycle back on the road to your starting point, Saint Etienne de Naucoules and enjoy the beautiful **360 degree views**.

On your path...



Caussaunejouls Lavogne (A)

Hermilix lavogne (B)

All useful information

⚠️ Advices

Box tree moths are active from May to October. During the caterpillar phase, they feed on the leaves of box trees. They crawl down trees and move on long silken threads, although these threads are annoying when hiking they do not pose any health risk

🎒 Gear

Prévoir une réserve d'eau et une tenue adaptée.

How to come ?

Transports

Travel by bus or train: <http://www.mobimipy.fr/>

Carpooling : [BlaBlaCar](#), [Rézo Pouce](#), [Covoiturage-libre](#), [Idvroom](#), [LaRoueVerte](#), [Roulez malin](#)

Access

De Saint-affrique, prendre la D999, direction Millau. Après 6 km tourner à droite sur la D293, direction Saint-Jean-d'Alcapiès.

Advised parking

Parking de la salle des fêtes, Saint-Jean d'Alcapiès

ℹ️ Information desks

Saint-Affrique Tourist Office

Boulevard Aristide Briand, 12400 Saint-Affrique

contact@roquefort-tourisme.fr

Tel : 0565585600

<http://www.roquefort-tourisme.fr/>



On your path...



📖 Caussaunejouls Lavogne (A)

How a lavogne works is very easy to understand; imagine a gigantic upturned umbrella that collects rainwater!

In the beginning, there was a natural pond with impervious clay soil. This small pond was a real boon for people who quickly set these watering sources up as they were so critical on the causses where water seeps into the cracked limestone. First, they tiled the inside of the pond and finished off the work by laying paving stones around the edge of the pond to preserve the water quality and prevent gullying due to the large flocks trampling the soil when the sheep come to drink.

The pond tiling was made either with lauzes, flat stones or with paving stones laid one after the other.

Once completed, this gigantic upturned umbrella would provide a great variety of animals with a welcoming habitat, just look down over a lavogne and see how it swarms and buzzes with life; what a frenzy of activity!

From this lavogne, you will enjoy a stunning view to the north over the Combalou, a residual mound that shelters the Roquefort maturing caves.

Attribution : (c) DelphineAtche



λ Hermilix lavogne (B)

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Attribution : Roquefort Tourisme