

N°8 The Verzolet valley

Des falaises de Roquefort au Rougier



(Virginie Govignon)



This short and technical route offers to experienced mountain-bikers a beautiful ride and provides a great variety of terrain on both sides of the Versolet valley.

A wide trail to cycle up along the Verzolet stream allows a gentle warm up. On the way back, everyone has his own method to ford the stream, either one stays on the bike and runs the risk of getting his feet wet, especially in case of a high water level, or one performs a careful balancing act, walking from stone to stone. You'll be cycling your way back mostly on singletrack paths with three ascending parts, some nice downhill and beautiful scenic viewpoints.

Useful information

Practice : VTT

Duration : 45 min

Length : 6.4 km

Trek ascent : 134 m

Difficulty : Very easy

Type : Loop

Themes : History and heritage,
Panorama

Trek

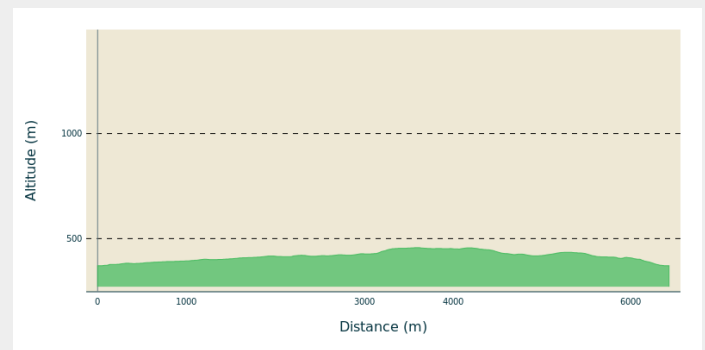
Departure : Versols

Arrival : Versols

Markings : ➤ VTT Parc

Cities : 1. Versols-et-Lapeyre

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 371 m Max elevation 457 m

Start your ride from the village of Versols. Cycle up the trail alongside the Verzolet stream passing a fish breeding farm on the way, until you reach its source in the catchment area.


1. Ford the brook so that you are on the opposite side and take to your right a path which is lined with box trees and overlooks the left bank of the brook. You can now ride back downstream to the village of Versols.

Versols: this ancient fortified village still has its original gateway and some remains of the old battlements at the center of which is the castle. The building was remodeled during the 15th and 16th centuries and holds a carved stone bearing the family Roquefeuil's coat of arms.

A 17th century painting, depicting Saint-Thomas putting his finger in Jesus' wound, can be seen in the 16th century church.

On your path...



 Castle and remains of fortification walls (A)

All useful information

Advices

In case of flooding, do not try to ford the Verzolet.

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

Situated 9 km from Saint-Affrique towards Cornus via the D7 road.

Advised parking

Parking rive gauche : traverser la Sorgues et tourner à gauche

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...



Castle and remains of fortification walls (A)

The Roquefeuil family lived here over a period of eight centuries, from 1250 to 1810, the date on which the owning family had to sell the castle. The building was then sold to different owners and part of it was converted into a farmhouse. Then in 1962, a couple from the Roquefeuil family bought back the stronghold.

The castle and the whole of the old village were included in a walled area called a castrum which spread out between the Sorgues and the Verzolet rivers. The castrum was originally composed (11th century) of only a small castle that was later extended during the 13th or 14th century to protect people from the clashes during the One Hundred Years War.

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