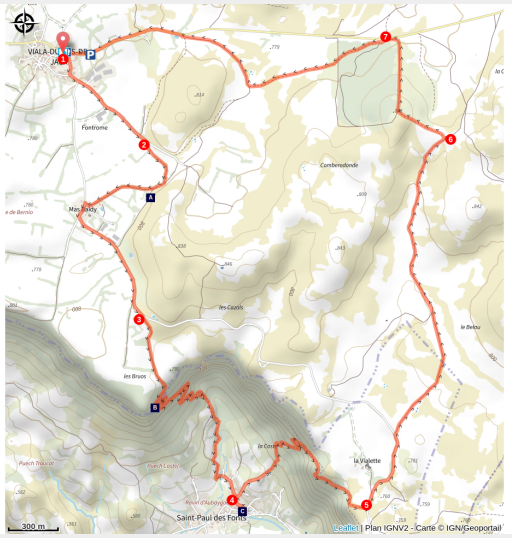
Path of the canon Hippolyte Coste

Des Gorges du Tarn au Causse du Larzac



Panorama sur St-Paul des Fonts (Claude Chambaud)



Heritage wise: the granary-tower of the Viala-du-Pas-de-Jaux. Landscape wise: the sensational cirque of St-Paul-des-Fonts. Two unique sites that make this crossing of the causse an exceptional hike.

Built in the time of the Hospitaller knights, the granary-tower of Viala-du-Pas-de-Jaux is the starting point of this loop inside a sumptuous agropastoral landscape. Formed by the karst erosion, the cirque of St-Paul-des-Fonts (village with a museum dedicated to the botanist Hippolyte Coste) offers you a breathtaking sight.

Useful information

Practice : Trekking

Duration : 3 h 30

Length : 12.5 km

Trek ascent : 357 m

Difficulty : Medium

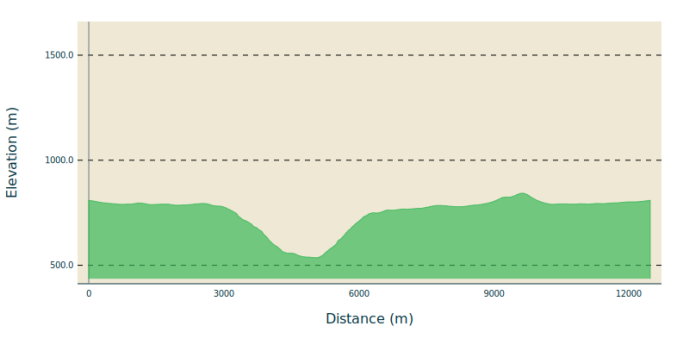
Type : Loop

Themes : Agropastoralism, Flora, Panorama

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. Saint-Jean-et-Saint-Paul

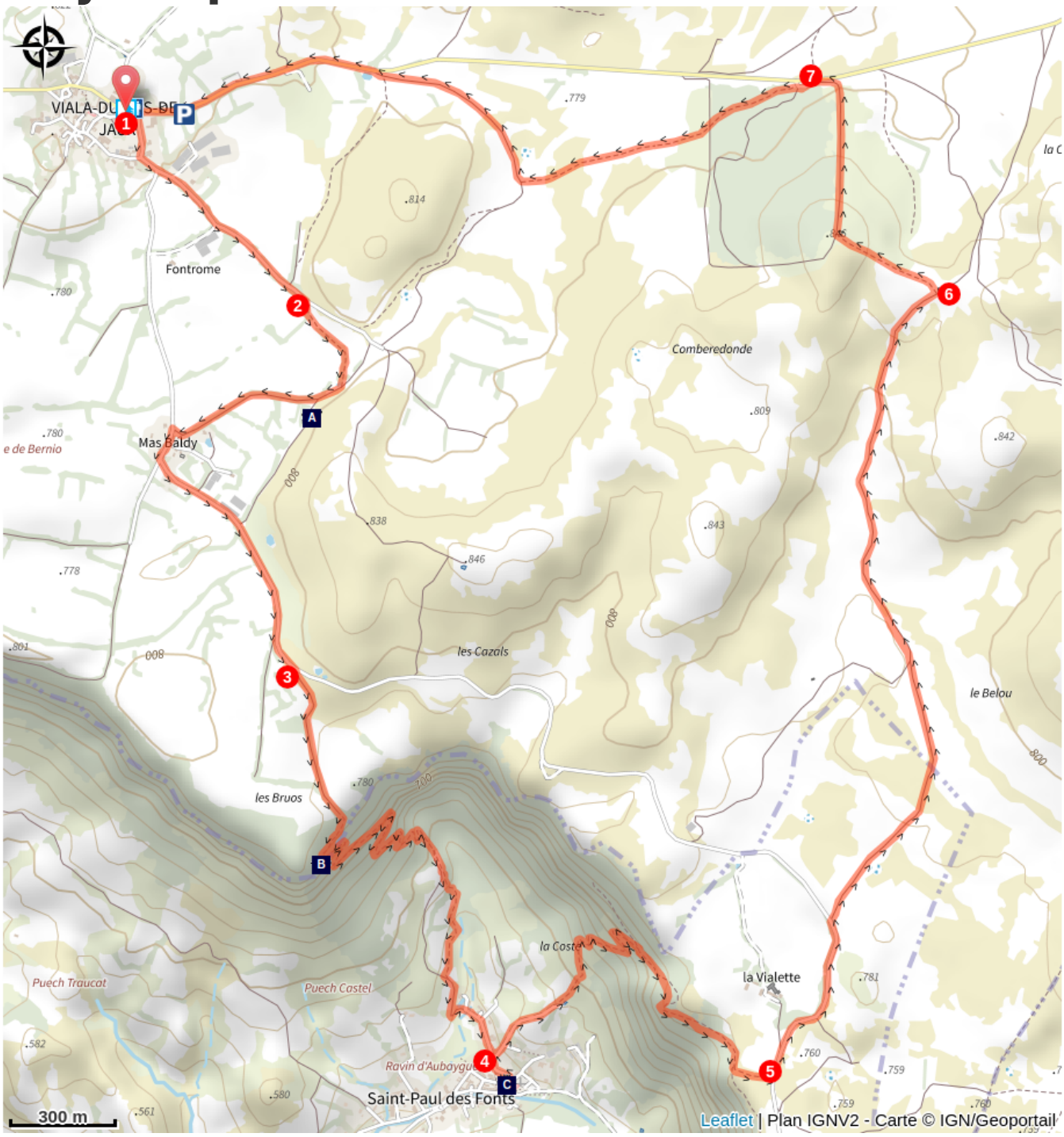
Altimetric profile



Min elevation 536 m Max elevation 843 m

1. From the tower, take the small road in direction of Mas Baldy on 150 meters, then turn left on a wide farm road.
2. Before the first important fork, turn right. After the cobbled watering place (“lavogne”), take the direction of Mas Baldy. In the hamlet, continue on the small road that draws a bend to the left on 800 meters.
3. At the exit of a bend, veer right on a path that meets a hallow path lined with boxwood hedges. It leads to the heights of the cirque of Saint-Paul-des-Fonts (view on the whole cirque and village). Go down the gravel path that zigzags on the wooded slope. Cross over the stream and continue towards the center of the village of Saint-Paul des Fonts (return).
4. 100 meters before the church, climb left to the tank, then continue along the path that rises in laces towards the plateau (panorama of St. Paul and the Annoux Valley).
5. On the causse (view on the Vialette farm, vestige of the old domain dependent of the Commandery of Sainte-Eulalie-de-Cernon), turn left on the road for 500 meters, then go on the right track.
6. 1 kilometer before the D23 road, turn left and head towards the pine woods (follow the signs). Walk around the pine wood to the right.
7. At the picnic area, take the path to go out of the wood and meet on west the D23 road, at the cobbled watering place. Take the D23 road to the left to return to Viala du Pas de Jaux.

On your path...



The lavogne (cobbled watering place)of Font Rome (A)

Botanical Museum Hippolyte Coste (C)

Cirque of St-Paul-des-Fonts (B)

All useful information

Advices

From 1 to 5 : white and red signs (GR71 C)
From 5 to 1 : yellow signs
Difficulty : steep climb between 4 and 5.
Don't forget binoculars and water.

How to come ?

Transports

Think about carpooling
Carpool areas and hitchhiking Rezopouce

Access

The village of Viala-du-Pas-de-Jaux, is situated at 36km from Millau by D809 and D23.

Advised parking

Shaded parking 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 lavogne (cobbled watering place)of Font Rome (A)

This lavogne (cobbled watering place) of Font Rome, built in 1910 near tank wells is was first situated on a waterproof clay background. Then, it was built of stones all around and cemented. So this type offers the advantage of forming a passage that resists the trampling of sheep, and the gentle slope of the surrounding area limits the risk of slipping and falling of the animals. It is supplied by rainwater.

Attribution : Association La Tour du Viala du Pas de Jaux



Cirque of St-Paul-des-Fonts (B)

The cirque of St-Paul-des-Fonts is a semi-circular natural cirque formed by karst erosion.

Attribution : Claude Chambaud



Botanical Museum Hippolyte Coste (C)

Established on the ground floor of the presbytery adjoining the church of Saint-Paul-des-Fonts, the botanical space is dedicated to the life and work of the canon Hippolyte Coste who shared his life between the duties of his ministry and his passion for botany.
This rouergate of modest peasant origins, which has been nicknamed "le curé des fleurs" (the priest of the flowers), knew how to rise in the yard of the greatest botanists by realizing in particular the remarkable and masterful «Flore descriptive et illustrée de la France, de la Corse et des contrées limitrophes» (1901 – 1906) which constitutes its masterpiece, known and still recognized today at the European scale.
With this museum Saint-Paul-des-Fonts becomes an unmissable destination for all those who wish to learn by discovering the botanical wealth of the Larzac and Aveyron.
Open from april to septembre. Free entrance.

Attribution : OT Larzac et Vallées