

From St-Jean-d'Alcas to the Mascourbe plateau

Des Gorges du Tarn au Causse du Larzac



Un des dolmen de Mascourbe, les avants-causses et le Larzac en arrière-plan (Virginie Govignon - OT Larzac et Vallées)

Saint-Jean-d'Alcas Fort, a Cistercian jewel is the starting point for a trip back in time and an exploration of the Mascourbe plateau, along dolmens and evidences of agro-pastoralism.

The fortified village of Saint-Jean-d'Alcas which was formerly owned by the Nonenque abbess encourages you to a getaway beyond its battlements on the Mascourbe plateau. In this landscape scattered with buisssières, three megaliths await you, along with a vernacular heritage linked with the agro-pastoral tradition: bories or caselles (dry stone huts) and sheepfolds.

Useful information

Practice : Trekking

Duration : 3 h

Length : 10.5 km

Trek ascent : 214 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Loop

Themes : Agropastoralism, History and heritage

Trek

Departure : St-Jean d'Alcas Fort

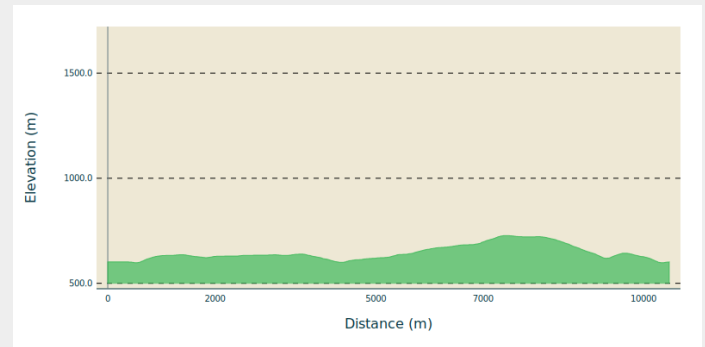
Arrival : St-Jean d'Alcas Fort

Markings : — PR

Cities : 1. Saint-Jean-et-Saint-Paul

2. Saint-Félix-de-Sorgues

Altimetric profile

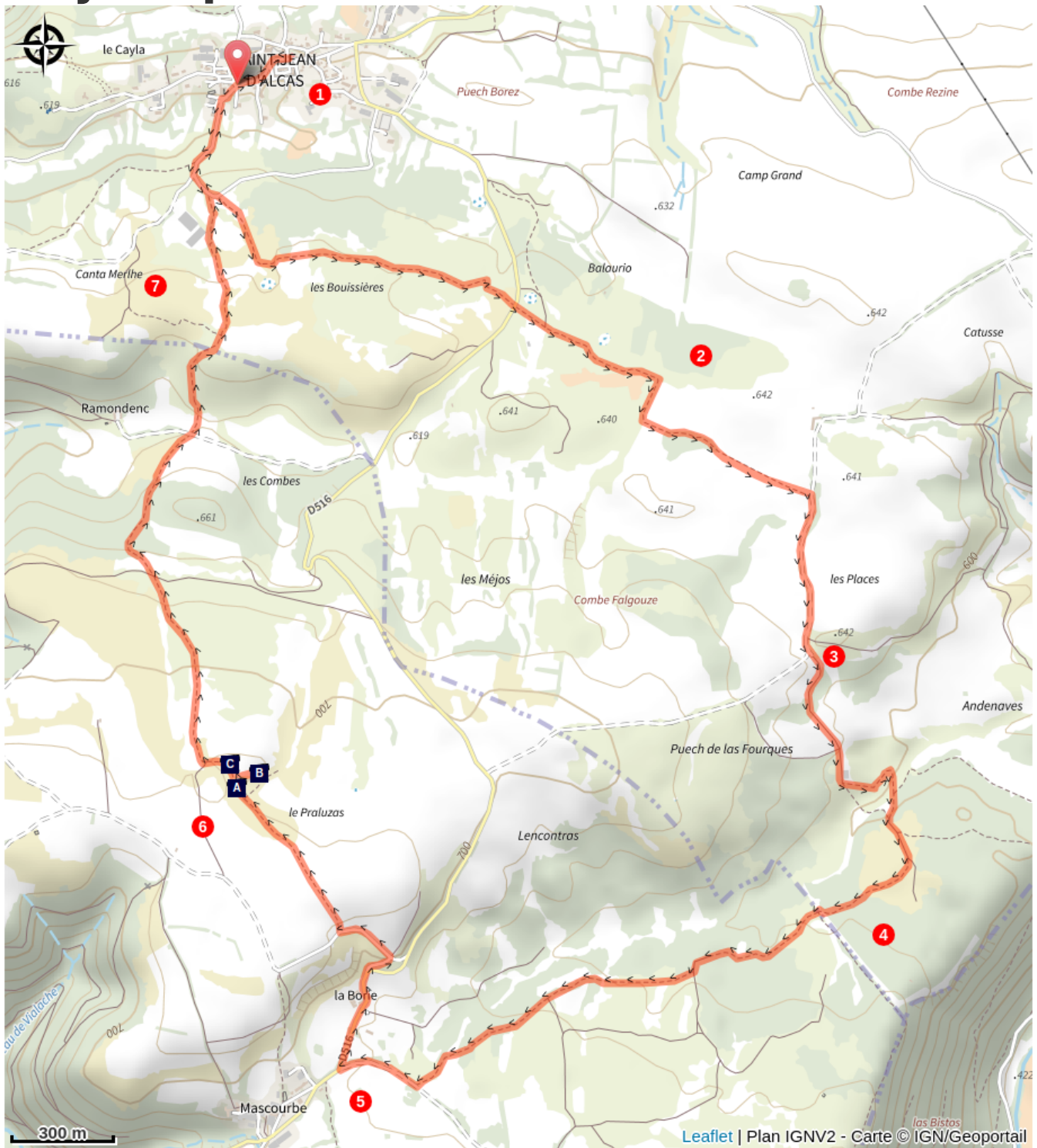




Min elevation 598 m Max elevation 727 m

1. From St-Jean d'Alcas fort, walk along the protective wall heading to the West, then carry on along the road. At the first intersection walk downhill to the left and keep walking on the small road. In a left curve, let a road marker indicating the direction of Mascourbe via the Puech and 50 m after take a "bouissière" (box hedges). After approximately 1 km, cross the road that links Saint-Jean- d'Alcas to Saint-Félix de Sorgues and continue through the "bouissière".
2. The track leads to a field, walk around it to the right, then tread across it up to a trail. Carry on along that trail to the right. After approximately 450 m, leave the trail on the left to make a short 100 m round trip to the dolmen des Places.
3. At the next intersection of trails take the one that runs down to the left. After 350 m, get through the door of the stock grid, walk along the fence up to a sheepfold. Go through the gate (close it properly) and carry on to the right of the fence. The path continues Southward. At the signpost of a path intersection, turn right towards Mascourbe.
4. Go through another stock grid, then continue to the right towards Mascourbe via the 2 km long "buissière" which is the ancient path linking the chartreuse de Nonenque with Mascourbe. At the exit of the "buissière", turn to the right on the trail.
5. At the junction with the road take it to the right, walk past the Borie du Commandeur, and shortly after take for 200m the small ascending road to the left. At the marker to your right, head towards Saint-Jean d'Alcas.
6. The path runs alternately through a typical caussenard landscape and cultivated areas to reach the two dolmens in Mascourbe. You will enjoy some beautiful panoramas towards the Larzac, the Combalou and the Levézou. As you walk down to St-Jean d'Alcas, you pass close to the beautiful Ramondenc farm.
7. As you get close to St-Jean d'Alcas you will notice on the left side a well preserved cazelle. The circuit ends by retracing your steps by the small road you took at the start.

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On your path...



 Mascourbe dolmen 2 (A)
 Mascourbe dolmen 1 (C)

 Mascourbe dolmen 3 (B)

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.

How to come ?

Transports

Getting around by [bus or train](#), [carpooling areas](#), hitchhiking with [Rezopouce](#)

Access

St-Jean d'Alcas is situated 28 km southwest of Millau via the D999 and D293 roads

Advised parking

Graveyard of St-Jean d'Alcas

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

On your path...



Mascourbe dolmen 2 (A)

Among the three Mascourbe dolmens, this second monument has a simpler structure, consisting of a stone cap resting on upright pillars, without an end slab. It belongs to the Neolithic heritage of the “Treilles” group and bears witness to the very early human occupation of the Grands Causses.

Attribution : PNR des Grands Causses



Mascourbe dolmen 3 (B)

This third Mascourbe dolmen is in ruins, reduced to two fragments of its capstone and a partially fallen upright stone. Although heavily damaged, it remains a witness to the funerary practices of the region’s Neolithic communities.

Attribution : PNR des Grands Causses



Mascourbe dolmen 1 (C)

The Mascourbe dolmens belong to the so-called “Treilles” group, named after the cave near the Treilles farm in Saint-Paul-des-Fonts. These prehistoric communities of the Grands Causses were known for their expertise in copper working and for practicing skull trepanation.

This dolmen, partially damaged, still retains an impressive trapezoidal end slab, a testament to these millennia-old constructions.

Attribution : PNR des Grands Causses