

Puech espinois

Des Gorges du Tarn au Causse du Larzac



Au départ de Lapanouse (Elodie Calazel - OT Larzac et Vallées)



From the Cernon Valley to the Larzac plateau, between boxwood and forests, a family hike that begins with the "precious stones path", fossil deposit and gem of geology.

Grey marls on the north side of the valley, limestone on the south side: this contrast is typical of the precious stone path, a geological site whose formation dated back 200 million years. The trail, rich in small pyriteous fossils, will delight the youngest. A fun start for an amazing hike!

Useful information

Practice : Trekking

Duration : 2 h

Length : 5.8 km

Trek ascent : 239 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Loop

Themes : Agropastoralism, History and heritage

Trek

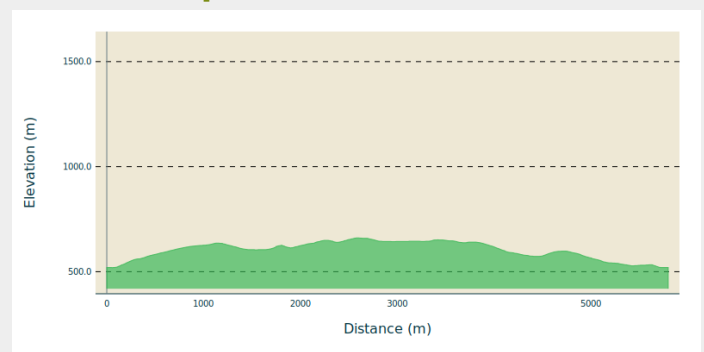
Departure : Lapanouse de Cernon

Arrival : Lapanouse de Cernon

Markings : — PR

Cities : 1. Lapanouse-de-Cernon

Altimetric profile





Min elevation 519 m Max elevation 661 m

From the parking of La Jasse, go across the footbridge over the Cernon River, cross the road and go towards the wooden signs indicating the circuits.

1. Take the path called “le chemin des pierres précieuses” (the gems path), then a wide stoned path, cross the road and continue straight. Pass under the railway bridge and turn right on the path of La Devèze.
2. At the first turn, take left and follow N°2 Puech Espinous, pass by the spring gate, cross a woody area following a ditch on the left. At the end, take on the left a shaded path then pass a gate.
3. At the end of the path, go straight. Pass next to a **Canadian way** by a gate, and continue on a path above the old train station. Turn right, the 50 m further turn left and enter in the Jacky’s wood (sign bois de Jacky) that you cross. Pass under the viaduct of the railway in a slope.
4. At the bottom, at the crossroads, turn right, follow this path until you cross an uphill track, then take the path on left and pass in front of a wooden hut. You cross black bushes.
5. Take the downhill trail on the right until you reach the next junction, then turn left at the sign “ARRIVEE” (arrival) going down a path in a meadow. Then follow to the right the path lined with boxwood from which you can see the houses of the village.

On your path...



-  The "gems" path (A)
-  The viaduct of Lapanouse (C)

-  The Jacky's "pargue" (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.

Advices

You cross sometimes classified areas, presenting protected species. Close the gate in the grazing area, don't near the sheep, keep the animals on a leash. Stay on marked trails, respect private property and nature. Don't pick flowers. Bring back your waste, take care of the risk of fires. Put on good shoes and take enough water. Check the weather forecast before leaving.

How to come ?

Transports

Think about carpooling and hitchhiking: [Rezopouce](#) ; [Aires de covoiturage](#)

Access

25km south of Millau.

From Millau by the D809, the D999 direction St-Affrique and the D562E.

From the A75 motorway, exit n°47 - La Cavalerie, follow the D999 direction of St-Affrique and then the D562E

Advised parking

Parking de la Jasse

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...



The "gems" path (A)

The marls and limestone benches along this path are very rich in fossils. These sedimentary lands were formed about 200 million years ago.

Gray marls are lands unsuitable for cultivation but contain treasures of natural heritage: Jurassic marine fossils (belemnites).

Marls are sedimentary rocks, composed of calcite and clay in roughly equivalent proportions (35% to 65%).

On this path, we can also find pyrite (comes from Greek: fire-stone), a mineral composed of iron disulfide.

Attribution : Frédéric Pélissier



The Jacky's "pargue" (B)

A « pargue » (word of Occitan origin) is a stone enclosure intended to park flocks of sheep.

The animals were locked during the hottest hours of the day when the ewes are grouped in the shade of the boxwood while ruminating.

The dung was picked up to manure the cereals and hemp fields, the gardens or sold in the south for the vines.

Attribution : Frédéric Pélissier



The viaduct of Lapanouse (C)

On this small circuit, the viaduct of Lapanouse is a great work with its 11 arches and 218m long.

The railway Tournemire - Le Vigan is in a few numbers :

- 60 kilometers long, 32 tunnels, 12 viaducts
- built since 1883 and commissioned in 1896
- closed in 1935 for travelers and 1955 for goods
- the removal of the rails in 1960 and the rest in 1979 for the extension project of the Larzac.

It is used today by the Vélorail and tourist train of Larzac departing from the station of Sainte-Eulalie de Cernon.

Attribution : Frédéric Pélissier