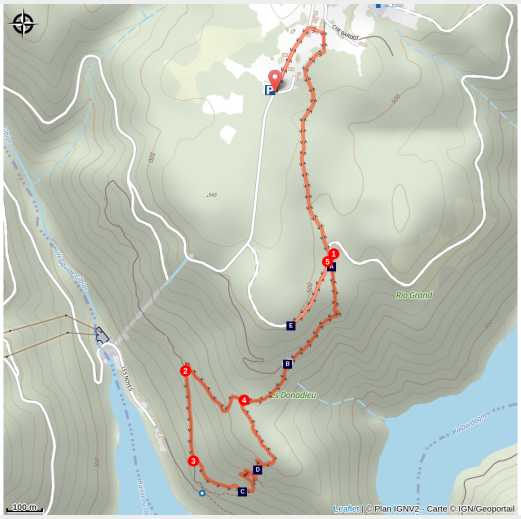
The Jardin de Bardot

Gorges et plateaux de la Haute-Dordogne



Point de vue sur la Dordogne (D.Agnoux - CC VEM)

From the terraced gardens of "Bardot" to the chestnut dryers, this short circular walk in the heart of the Gorges de la Dordogne will delight young and old alike.

Bardot was the nickname of Joseph Mas who, with his wife, set out to become a market gardener at the beginning of the 20th centuryin the sunny Dordogne valley. Come and explore their terraced gardens.

Useful information

Practice : Pedestrian

Duration : 2 h

Length : 5.0 km

Trek ascent : 267 m

Difficulty : Difficult

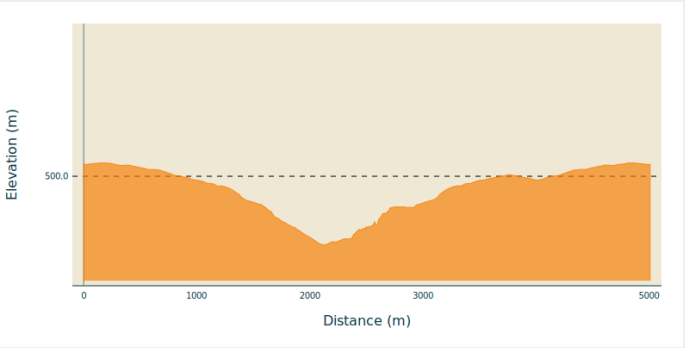
Type : Loop

Themes : Discovery trail, Fauna et flora, Heritage site and architecture, History, Lakes and rivers, Landscape

Trek

Departure : The Busatier trail near Nougein, Marcillac la Croisille
Arrival : The Busatier trail near Nougein, Marcillac la Croisille
Markings : Red markers
Cities : 1. Marcillac-la-Croisille

Altimetric profile

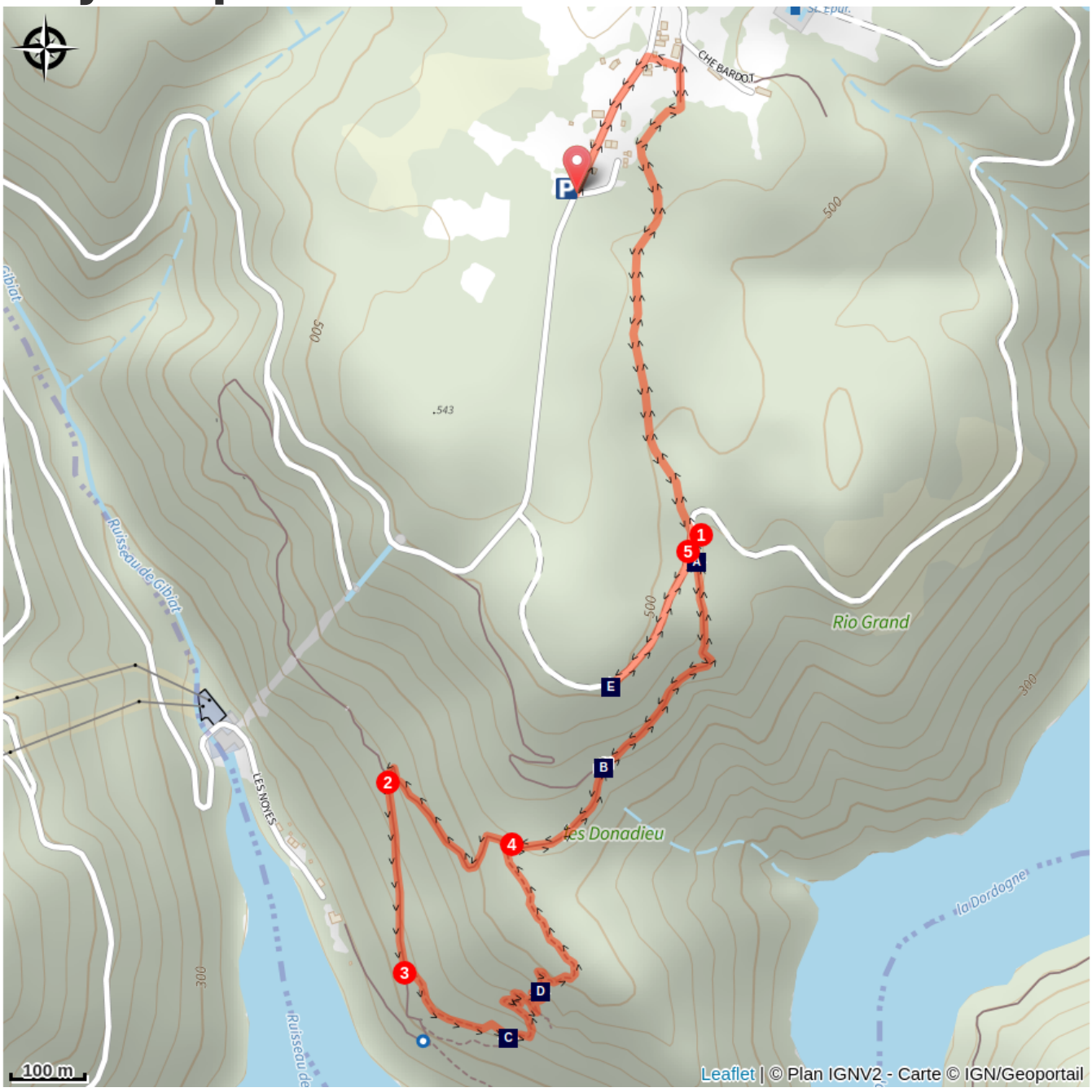


Min elevation 310 m Max elevation 537 m

From the car park, follow the road down towards the Marcillac hydroelectric plant for 300 m. It passes the foot of the surge tank for the penstock, the enclosed pipeline, which brings water from the Valletta dam.

1. Follow the gravel path on the left (signed Jardin de Bardot) for 150 m, make a right-angled turn to the right, and start the descent into the wooded valley with its hornbeam, oak and chestnut trees. The trail passes over the penstock, near a water tower and continues down into the gorges.
2. At the intersection, after a reservoir, continue straight ahead until you reach the junction of the paths. You can access the Dordogne riverbank by continuing straight ahead.
3. Follow the path to the left, climb the steps, pass by a former chestnut dryer, a "séchadour" and enter the Jardin de Bardot (a restored site). Continue along the steep path that begins at the top and to the right of the terraced garden. It zig-zags up the steep slope. On a bend, a path leads to a cave used by the Resistance, 100 m away. At the top, continue to the left on the flat and take the path that goes back up the valley.
4. Continue on the stone path, pass in front of the Pas du Diable, the Fauteuil de Dieu, and the Buse de Granit and you will find a restored "séchadour.
5. Take the track on the left, pass the belvedere of Le Busatier (a panoramic viewpoint looking out over the Dordogne valley; now look up into the sky: peregrine falcons, black and red kites nest nearby) and then find the starting point again.

On your path...



- Chestnut dryer (A)
- Granite buzzard (B)
- Le jardin de Bardot (C)
- The Cave of the Maquis (D)
- The Busatier Viewpoint (E)

All useful information

Advices

After it passes through the Jardin de Bardot, the rocky path becomes steep and sloping as it zig-zags upwards.

How to come ?

Access

6.5 km from Marcillac la Croisille, take the D18 then turn left onto the Nougein municipal road, go through the hamlet of Nougein; the car park is on the left, 500 m away.

Advised parking

The start of the Busatier trail, Nougein

Information desks

Office de Tourisme Ventadour-Egletons-Monédières
1 rue Joseph Vialaneix, 19300 Egletons
accueil@tourisme-egletons.com
Tel : 05 55 93 04 34
http://www.tourisme-egletons.com

Communauté de Communes de Ventadour - Egletons - Monédières
Carrefour de l'Epinette, 19550 Lapleau
accueil@cc-ventadour.fr
Tel : 05 55 27 69 26
http://www.cc-ventadour.fr

On your path...

Chestnut dryer (A)

Small renovated stone building for drying chestnuts. These were placed on shelves on the floor of the first floor. A small fire, left alight for several days below, allowed the chestnuts to dry. There are many remains of dryers or kilns in this area. They testify to an important activity during the 19th century; the production and transportation of chestnuts by barge.

Attribution : CC VEM

Granite buzzard (B)

A granite sculpture of a bird of prey that recalls the remarkable diversity of these gorges in the Dordogne, a breeding ground for birds of prey.

Attribution : CC VEM

Le jardin de Bardot (C)

Around 1905, Joseph Mas (Bardot) and his wife Maria created a terraced garden in the Dordogne valley and cultivated various fruits and vegetables, some unfamiliar (peaches, strawberries, grapes, figs). Maria would then sell them in the surrounding villages. The couple's reputation extends beyond the boundaries of the commune. From the 1930s, their age and the economic situation gradually led them into poverty. Today, the terraced garden has been rebuilt for the enjoyment of hikers. Around 1905, Joseph Mas (Bardot) and his wife Maria created a terraced garden in the Gorges de la Dordogne and cultivated various and unfamiliar fruits and vegetables (peaches, strawberries, grapes and figs). Maria would then sell them in the surrounding villages. The couple's reputation extends beyond the boundaries of their commune. From the 1930s, their age and the economic situation gradually led them into poverty. Today, the terraced garden has been rebuilt for the enjoyment of hikers.

Attribution : D.Agnoux - CC VEM

The Cave of the Maquis (D)

During the Second World War, the Dordogne valley was used as a hiding place by many resistance movements (Armée Secrète, F.T.P.F., etc.). Known as the "Cave of the Maquis", this refuge is just a simple rock shelter. It was home to one of the first armed groups of the Francs Tirailleurs French Partisans, called Leopold Rechossière.

Attribution : C.Blanchon - CC VEM

The Busatier Viewpoint (E)

A remarkable view of the reservoir of the Chastang dam and the steep, wooded slopes of the Gorges de la Dordogne.

Attribution : CC VEM