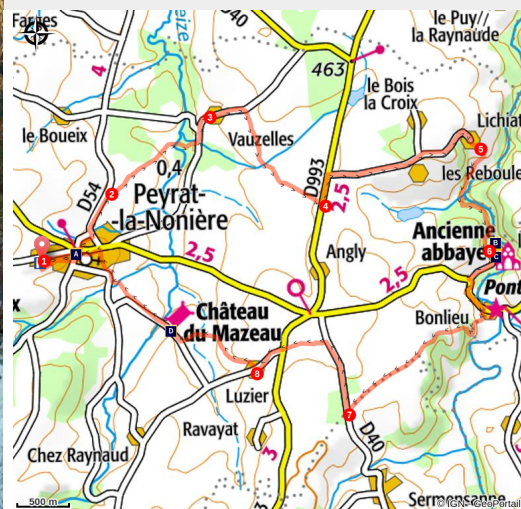


# Between Tardes and Voueize

Sud Creuse – Aubusson – lac de Vassivière



Les cascades de Bonlieu (Commune de Peyrat la Nonière)



On the banks of the two main white-water rivers of the area, the Tardes and the Voueize, the silhouettes of the former abbey of Bonlieu and the fortified farmhouse of Mazeau blend perfectly into the landscape.

To dawdle in the surroundings of Peyrat-la-Nonière is to discover the traces that humans have left behind, their history and the way they have always respected their rich and varied natural environment.

## Useful information

Practice : Pedestrian

Duration : 4 h

Length : 15.0 km

Trek ascent : 273 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Loop

Themes : Heritage site and  
architecture

Accessibility : VTT

# Trek

**Departure** : Stade, Peyrat-la-Nonière

**Arrival** : Stade, Peyrat-la-Nonière

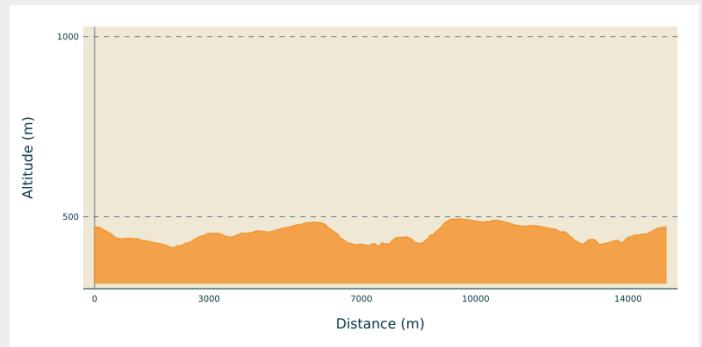
**Markings** : — Yellow markers

**Cities** : 1. Peyrat-la-Nonière

2. Saint-Priest

3. Saint-Domet

## Altimetric profile



Min elevation 414 m Max elevation 494 m

The start of this hike is at the Peyrat-la-Nonière stadium.

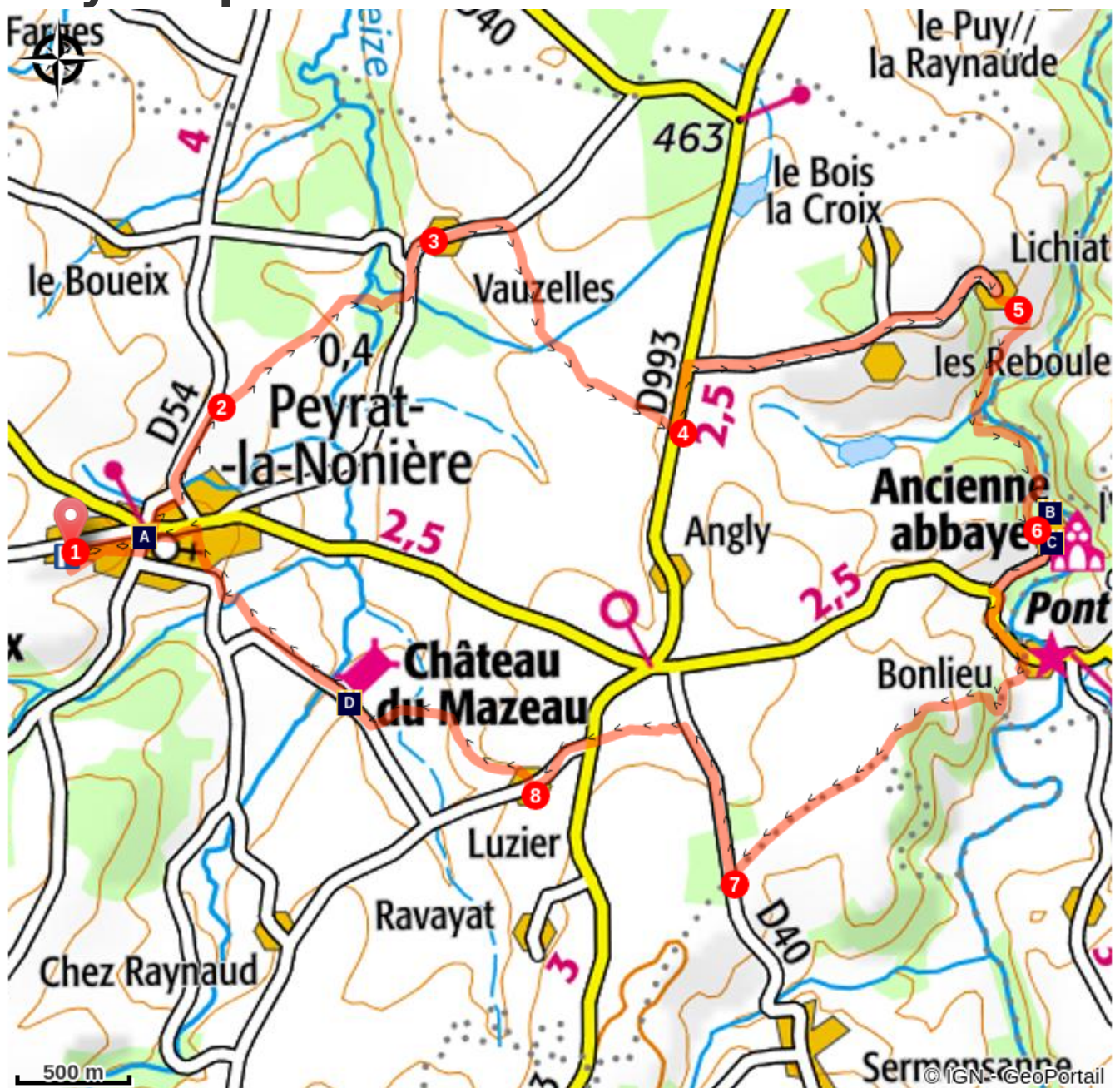
1. Follow the departmental road down towards the town following the yellow markings on the right.
2. Take the path for about 300 m then take the path on the right at La Bergerolles.
3. Go on through the hamlet of Vauzelles. As you leave, take the path on the right up to the road D993.
4. Turn left onto the D993 then turn right and continue to the hamlet of Lichiat.
5. On the far edge of the hamlet, turn right and continue straight ahead until you reach the Bonlieu mill which is immediately before the towering walls of the abbey. Behind the mill, the waterfalls are a point of interest not to be missed.
6. At the end of the road turn right towards Bonlieu. In the village, go and see the bridge of Bonlieu (300 m round trip) which was built in the 14th century for the needs of the abbey. At Bonlieu, take the first right and then right again and go straight on until you get to the D40.
7. Follow the D40 for about 500 m then turn left. Continue straight ahead and cross the D993.
8. Then turn right towards the hamlet of Luzier. Continue straight ahead to the village of Peyrat la Nonière to reach the starting point.



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# On your path...



 The Bol de Gargantua (A)

 Bonlieu Abbey (C)

 Bonlieu Bridge (B)

 Château du Mazeau (D)



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# All useful information

## **Advices**

Attention : l'abbaye et les cascades de Bonlieu sont du domaine privé.

## **How to come ?**

### Access

7.5 km from Chénérailles via the D4.

### Advised parking

Stadium, Peyrat-la-Nonière

## **Accessibility**

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VTT

## **Information desks**

### **Communauté de communes Marche et Combrailles en Aquitaine**

Rue de l'Etang, 23700 Auzances

Tel : 05 55 67 04 99



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# On your path...

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## The Bol de Gargantua (A)

An ancient baptismal font. Legend has it that Gargantua passed with his dog over the Barbot bridge which spans the Voueize river at the bottom of the village. Dazzled by this beautiful water, he took his bowl and filled it with water. But he nearly choked when he swallowed a donkey drifting down the river. Mad with rage, Gargantua threw his bowl away, and it landed on the village square.

Attribution : Commune de Peyrat la Nonière

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## Bonlieu Bridge (B)

Bridge built over the Tardes river (300 m round trip). The religious people of the village built it in the 14th century for the needs of the abbey. It consists of two pointed arches with triangular cutwaters.

Attribution : Commune de Peyrat la Nonière

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## Bonlieu Abbey (C)

In the 12th century, a few hermits settled and founded a Cistercian community this deep, wooded valley bottom, in which the Tardes river flows. In the 13th century, the abbey was at the head of a considerable estate with, in particular "granges", independent outlying agricultural properties, all superbly managed. The decline began in the 16th century, and the abbey was sold as a National Asset in 1790. Of the abbey church, only a piece of the apse remains. There are also the main buildings and a large square tower; it was built to reinforce the defence system after the ransacking by the British during the Hundred Years War.

Attribution : Commune de Peyrat la Nonière

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## 🏰 Château du Mazeau (D)

The first manorial dwelling, known as "Château Vieux", was probably not built until the end of the 15th century, and only became the residence of the abbots of Bonlieu in the middle of the 16th century. It was at this time that an extension known as "Château Neuf" was built, all in cut stone, with a finely carved door and windows. The Italian-style gallery, remarkable for its terracotta medallions, dates from the 17th century.

Attribution : Commune de PEYRAT LA NONIERE