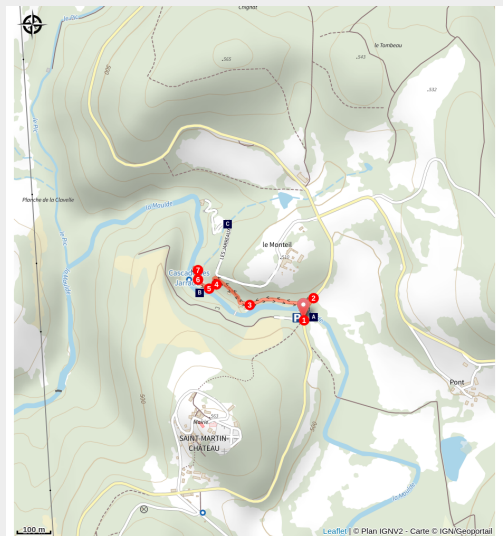


# The Jarrauds waterfall discovery trail

Parc de Millevaches en Limousin



La Cascade des Jarrauds (bsavarypro)



The Jarrauds waterfall, the third listed site in the Creuse department, was protected in 1939 for its scenic beauty. In a lush, green setting, covering an area of 51 ha, the Maulde meanders between the massive granite blocks it shapes as it passes, and then falls 15 m into a noisy waterfall. This waterfall is not only aesthetically pleasing; it is also associated with an amazing story: the first local experiments in electricity production and transmission to Bourgneuf, the "Town of Light".

## Useful information

Practice : Pedestrian

Duration : 30 min

Length : 1.2 km

Trek ascent : 31 m

Difficulty : Easy

Type : Round trip

Themes : Expertise, Geological interest, Landscape

# Trek

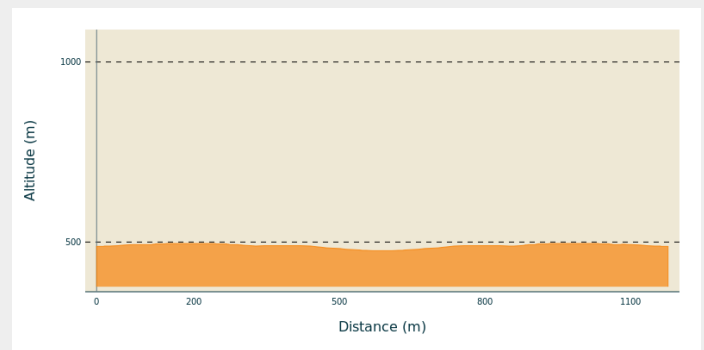
**Departure** : Car park for the Jarrauds waterfall, D512A, Saint-Martin-Château

**Arrival** : Car park for the Jarrauds waterfall, D512A, Saint-Martin-Château

**Markings** : — Yellow markers

**Cities** : 1. Saint-Martin-Château

## Altimetric profile



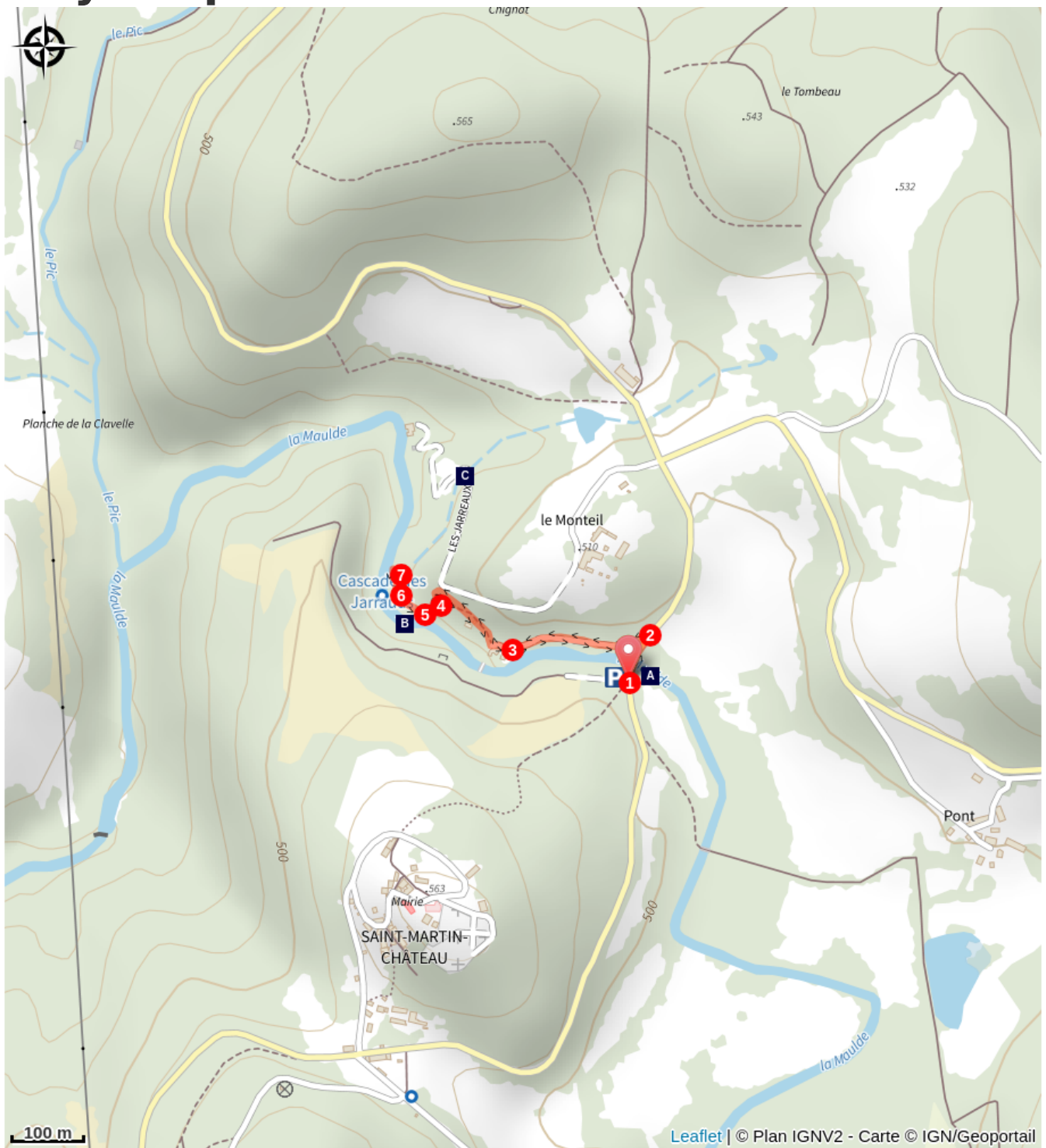
Min elevation 476 m    Max elevation 496 m




1. From the car park, head towards the main road. Take it on the left and cross the bridge.
2. Just after the bridge, on the left, a stone staircase leads down to the embankment. At the bottom, turn left on the wide paved pathway. Follow it straight until you get to the houses.
3. At the end of the wide path, when you reach the last house, a continuous path runs alongside a low stone wall. Take it and go up a few steps until you reach the top of a stone staircase.
4. Go down the steps to the river.
5. Cross the canal on the footbridge, then turn right and continue along the canal to a barrier.
6. Take the metal staircase on the left that leads down the slope, then continue on the path that goes to the right.
7. A last narrow step, which forks to the left, provides access to a platform. From the platform, you can enjoy the view of the waterfall. It is possible to go down to the river by continuing along the path for a few metres. For safety and to respect private property, do not deviate from the landscaped path. Return to the car park by the same path.



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# On your path...



-  The Maulde, context and use (A)
-  The formation of a waterfall (B)
-  The story of the electrification of Bourgneuf (C)



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08/23/2025 • The Jarrauds waterfall discovery trail •

# All useful information

## How to come ?

### Access

From Bourganeuf, follow the D51.

### Advised parking

Car park for the Jarrauds waterfall, D512A, Saint-Martin-Château

## Information desks

### **Bureau d'information touristique de Bourganeuf**

Place du Champ de Foire, 23400  
Bourganeuf

[bourganeuf@tourisme-creuse-sudouest.com](mailto:bourganeuf@tourisme-creuse-sudouest.com)

Tel : 05 55 64 12 20

<http://www.tourisme-creuse-sudouest.com>

### **Bureau d'information touristique d'Ahun**

12 Place Defumade, 23150 Ahun

[ahun@tourisme-creuse-sudouest.com](mailto:ahun@tourisme-creuse-sudouest.com)

Tel : 05 55 62 55 93

<http://www.tourisme-creuse-sudouest.com>



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# On your path...

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## The Maulde, context and use (A)

The Maulde is a river that originates in the Creuse. Access to the waterfall is in a wooded environment dotted with more or less visible boulders. The houses at the end of the path were once an old water mill (private property). The power of the water was then used to make flour. This river is used for electricity production in many places (Vassivière dams, Jarrauds micro-power station...). Further on, you will cross a diversion canal built in 1984 to generate electricity.

Attribution : bsavaypro

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## The formation of a waterfall (B)

The formation of the current landscape is the result of several million years of geological movements and erosion phenomena. The alternation of freeze/thaw periods in the Quaternary era favoured the hollowing out of valleys; the hardest rocks remained, while the softest were eroded away by water. Which is how this waterfall was born, and erosion continues to sculpt the rocks. You will notice that the rocks near the waterfall have round or ovoid depressions called cupmarks or pots.

Attribution : bsavaypro

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## The story of the electrification of Bourganeuf (C)

Following demonstrations, in 1885, the town of Bourganeuf signed an agreement with an engineer from Paris, Ernest Lamy, to provide public lighting for the town. The use of the waters of the Mourné being unsatisfactory, this engineer undertook the transport of electricity over 14 km by connecting the Jarrauds site to Bourganeuf in 1888-1889, which was a real achievement at the time. From being the third French town to be fully electrified, it became one of the first towns in Europe to receive direct current electricity with a remote production site.

Attribution : Joel Damase / PSC