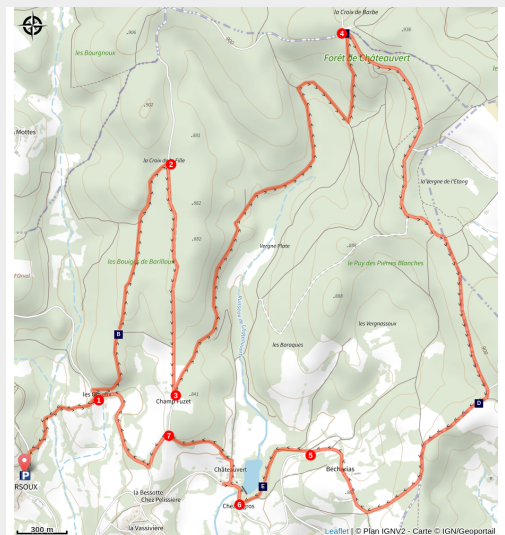


# The White Trail

Sud Creuse – Aubusson – lac de Vassivière – Saint-Martial-le-Vieux



(G.Salat - CC HCC)



*A route through the woods where you can meet the denizens of the forest.*

This hike takes you to explore the forest of Châteauvert, a massif dominated by deciduous trees. Close to the highest point of the Creuse (932 m), we are in the presence of one of the highest beech forests in the region. On the way back, admire the tower of the ancient Château Châteauvert, which is mirrored in the pond.

## Useful information

Practice : Pedestrian

Duration : 4 h

Length : 15.0 km

Trek ascent : 301 m

Difficulty : Difficult

Type : Loop

Themes : Landscape

# Trek

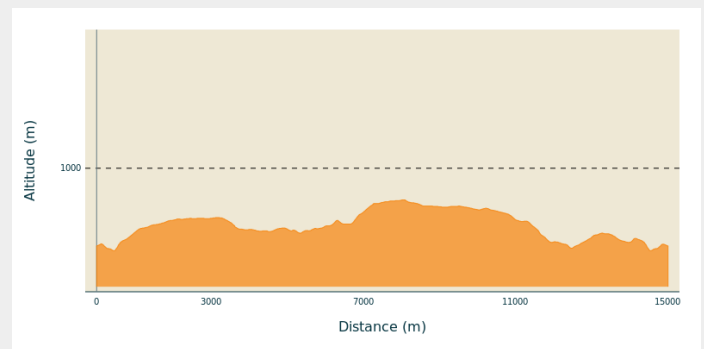
**Departure** : Place de la Mairie, Saint-Martial le Vieux

**Arrival** : Place de la Mairie, Saint-Martial le Vieux

**Markings** : — Yellow markers

**Cities** : 1. Saint-Martial-le-Vieux  
2. Saint-Oradoux-de-Chirouze  
3. Lamazière-Haute  
4. Couffy-sur-Sarsonne

## Altimetric profile



Min elevation 771 m Max elevation 912 m

Depart from the town hall (village of Sarsoux). Take the road towards Les Ortiaux for 150 m, then take the path on the left that leads to this village.

1. Take the road to your left for 50 m and then the path to your right. Straight on at the first crossroads; turn right at the second to return to the track.
2. Follow it to the right as far as Le Champ Fuzet.
3. Before the house, take the track on the left. Follow the signage on this section: the path goes up the Châteauvert stream over a long distance. Towards the source, turn right at the first crossroads and then left at the next to reach La Croix de Barbe.
4. Take the road to the right. At the next crossroads, follow the track to the right and then to the left for a significant distance. Stay on the main track. It becomes a road that leads to Becharias.
5. 300 m after the end of the village, take the track on the right for 50 m; at the next crossroads, go straight on to reach Châteauvert.
6. Take the road to the right, over the bridge. Fork to the right after the tower. At the end of the village, leave the path and follow a trail to the left at a wooden shed.
7. At the road, turn left then right to reach Les Ortiaux. At Les Ortiaux, after the barn, the path takes you back to the starting point.








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# On your path...



-  Saint-Martial le Vieux (A)
-  La Croix de Barbe (C)
-  The old château (E)

-  The Châteauvert forest (B)
-  The Massif du Sancy (D)



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# All useful information

## **Advices**

Ce chemin compte une portion commune balisée en jaune avec l'itinéraire « Sommet des Agriers » de Lamazière-Haute. Bien suivre le balisage.  
A proximité du camp militaire de La Courtine, des tirs ont lieu régulièrement. Rassurez-vous, ils ne se déroulent qu'à l'intérieur de l'enceinte militaire.

## **How to come ?**

### Access

Be careful to find the starting point because St-Martial is made up of several villages, including Sarsoux. From La Courtine, follow the D 982 towards Ussel then follow the D 8 towards St-Martial. Continue for 4 km and then turn left towards Sarsoux Town Hall

### Advised parking

Place de la mairie, Saint-Martial le Vieux

## **Information desks**

### **Bureau d'information de Felletin**

Place Quinault, 23500 Felletin

[tourisme.aubusson@gmail.com](mailto:tourisme.aubusson@gmail.com)

Tel : 05 55 66 32 12

<http://www.aubusson-felletin-tourisme.com>

### **Bureau d'information touristique d'Ussel**

Rue Saint-Martin, 19200 Ussel

Tel : 05 19 60 00 30

<https://www.tourisme-hautecorreze.fr/>



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# On your path...

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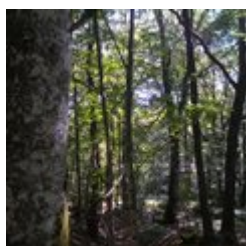


## Saint-Martial le Vieux (A)

The commune of Saint-Martial, which had 139 inhabitants in 2018, is actually made up of several small villages without a real market town centre, as the church and the town hall are more than 3 km apart. At the starting point, don't miss the "fountain, watering place and wash house" and the listed 16th-century cemetery cross. On the way back, the recently restored church is worth a visit.

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## The Châteauvert forest (B)

The forest of Châteauvert is a vast massif composed mainly of deciduous trees and, more particularly, of beeches. At over 900 metres, this forest has one of the highest beech forests in the region. It is defined as an old-growth forest, having been continuously forested for at least 150 years: naturalists, therefore, consider that its ecosystem corresponds to an optimum similar to environments where humans have never intervened.

Attribution : G.Salat - CC HCC

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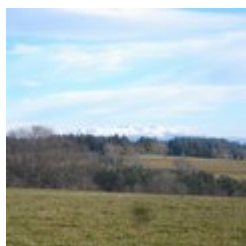


## La Croix de Barbe (C)

The presence of the typical hunters' hut at the start of this hike (the testimonies in the visitors' book inside prove that it is also used as a shelter for hikers, soldiers on manoeuvres, etc.) reminds us of the abundance to be found in the woodland undergrowth of the Plateau de Millevaches: game, blueberries, mushrooms: so many gourmet treasures that can be found on our restaurant owners' menus.

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## The Massif du Sancy (D)

This hike will offer you several viewpoints overlooking the highest volcano in mainland France, the Puy de Sancy. At 1885 metres above sea level, this summit is the highest point of the Massif Central. The two streams, the Dore and the Dogne, originate there, and their confluence forms the Dordogne.

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## The old château (E)

All that remains of the old château, probably dating from the 14th century, is a recently restored tower. The history of this estate, which included a château, farms and forests, is closely linked to the d'Ussel family, a great noble family of the Limousin, and they still own the estate. Although it can be viewed from the outside, this private property cannot be visited.

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