The charcoal burners' trail

Gorges et plateaux de la Haute-Dordogne

(V.Mendras - CC HCC)

From the plateau to the Vianon and Luzège gorges, this route is full of natural and cultural wonders.

After a refreshing descent to the rocky chaos on the Vianon, come and immerse yourself in the iconic site of the Old Church, a recently restored historical monument, in the heart of the Luzège valley on the site of Le Gour Noir.

Useful information

Practice : Pedestrian

Duration : 3 h

Length : 9.4 km

Trek ascent : 405 m

Difficulty : Difficult

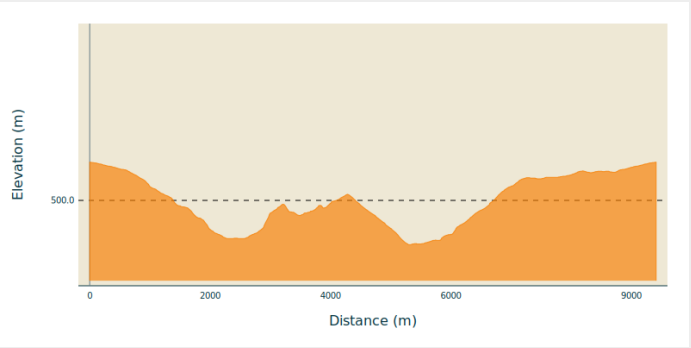
Type : Loop

Themes : Heritage site and architecture

Trek

Departure : Car park next to the old wagon
Arrival : Car park next to the old wagon
Markings : Yellow markers
Cities : 1. Saint-Pantaléon-de-Lapleau 2. Saint-Hilaire-Luc

Altimetric profile



Min elevation 377 m Max elevation 606 m

1. Take the RD 55 towards the town hall. At the town hall, turn right towards the Chambougnol mill. The road becomes a track.
2. Where the tracks cross, turn right: stay on the main path down into the gorge for 1.5 km. At the crossroads, turn right to make a return trip to the river; go up for 200 metres to see the rocky gorge and then return to the crossroads.
3. Go up a few metres and leave the main path on the right for a small steep trail; follow the signs carefully on this long and technical section - it doesn't have many landmarks. Pass under a power line and find a track.
4. Go up for 50 metres, then drop down to the right by a path in the undergrowth that joins a road. Follow the road to the left to reach the Old Church.
5. Level with the site (you can go up to the church by the stone steps or to go down on the right for a round trip to the Luzège dam, 500 m), take a trail on the left which goes up by wooden steps; stay on the main route: the trail becomes a path at the end of the wood, then a road towards the first house. Go through the village of La Croix; continue on the road, passing the road towards the village of La Chevalerie on the right.
6. In the village of Laborie, take the track on the left, which arrives at a crossroads of tracks. Turn right to take the track you already took on the way to the starting point.

On your path...

The Tacot Tramway train (A)
The Luzège dam (C)
The Barbecues (E)
The Vianon (B)
The church of Gour Noir (D)
Bread oven (F)

All useful information

How to come ?

Access

From Neuvic, follow the D 991 towards Egletons, then go left on the D 89, then take the D 55E towards St-Pantaléon.

Advised parking

Car park next to the old wagon

Information desks

Office de Tourisme de Haute-Corrèze - Bureau de Neuvic
1 Rue de la Tour des Cinq Pierres, 19160 Neuvic
Tel : 05 19 60 00 30
https://www.tourisme-hautecorreze.fr/

On your path...

The Tacot Tramway train (A)

Between 1913 and 1959, this tramway, also called the "Tacot", linked Ussel to Tulle. On average, 190 passengers used this tramway every day. It served about 50 villages, including Saint-Pantaléon-de-Lapleau.

Attribution : V.Mendras - CC HCC

The Vianon (B)

The Vianon, which rises at an altitude of 650 metres in the commune of Saint-Angel, joins the Luzège a little further down the route. As you continue up the river, you will notice a rocky gorge, also known as a "chaos", which refers to a pile of rocks displaced by erosion.

Attribution : V.Mendras - CC HCC

The Luzège dam (C)

This dam is a hydroelectric reservoir on the Luzège, with a surface area of 29 ha. The site is home to many species of fish, as well as otters, adders, the common genet and deer.

Attribution : V.Mendras - CC HCC

The church of Gour Noir (D)

Built at the end of the 12th century, this church was restored at the end of the 20th century. It has hosted the Luzège theatre festival since the first performance in 1987. The site is also a natural area and home to a great wealth of plant and animal species (booted eagle, white-throated dipper, brown trout, etc.).

Attribution : CC HCC

The Barbecues (E)

These barbecues were used by the workers in charge of constructing the dam in the middle of the 20th century.

Attribution : V.Mendras - CC HCC

Bread oven (F)

In the past, many villages had their own bread ovens, which were owned jointly by the inhabitants, but some of them were built into the house and opened directly into the chimney of the dwelling.

Attribution : V.Mendras - CC HCC